

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

REGION

4

NEWS CAST

VOLUME 5

OCTOBER, 1963

No. 4

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, REGION 4

REGIONAL AND CHAPTER OFFICERS

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Earl T. Browder
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St. Albans, W. Va.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Rena Frantz
813 Tremont Road
Salem, Virginia

HISTORIAN AND LIBRARIAN

Mrs. Guy R. Kirby
212 Forrest Avenue
Norfolk 5, Virginia

EDITOR NEWS CAST

Donald W. Mitchell
9020 Howser Lane
Lanham, Maryland

TREASURER

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2524 Kanawha Terrace
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

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Rt. 4, Box 520
Roanoke, Virginia

AUCTION CHAIRMAN

Scott Bowers
Box 455
Jackson, N. C.

JUDGES TRAINING COMMITTEE CHM.

Claude C. O'Brien
1216 Bellvue Street
Greensboro, N. C.

ROBINS CHAIRMAN

Ralph and Helen Lewis
1401 Alabama Avenue
Durham, N. C.

MOUNTAINEER (W. VA.) CHAP. CHM.

Claude J. Davis
364 Spencer Avenue
Morgantown, W. Va.

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

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813 Tremont Road
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Route 1, Box 189
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407 Greenbrier Street
Charleston, W. Va.

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Norfolk, Virginia

WESTERN N. C., CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

Frank Sherrill
401 Woodlawn Street
Davidson, N. C.

EASTERN N. C., CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

John Wilson
3401 Rockingham Road
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Route 2, Box 118A
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C & P (Md.) CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

Ivan Richmond
9200 Flower Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland

CENTRAL W. VA. CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Jennie McCracken
Route 2
Walker, W. Va.

WESTERN MD. CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

Harold Harned
P. O. Box 81
Oakland, Maryland

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 4 JUDGES FOR 1963

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| R.V.P. Earl T. Browder | 2517 Washington Ave., St. Albans, W. Va. |
| William T. Allen | 10 Kemper Ave., Newport News, Va. |
| F. H. Alexander | 1001 Wiloubar Terrace, High Point, N. C. |
| James Aultz | 1010—13th St., Huntington, W. Va. |
| Mrs. H. T. Aycock | 230 Forrest Ave., Norfolk, Va. |
| Scott Bowers | P. O. Box 445, Jackson, N. C. |
| B. J. Brown* | R.F.D. 3, Charlotte, N. C. |
| Mrs. B. J. Brown* | R.F.D. 3, Charlotte, N. C. |
| Mrs. F. Allen Brown | 4326 Grandin Rd. Ext., Roanoke, Va. |
| Mrs. J. B. Crozier | Box 187, Jaeger, W. Va. |
| Dr. Claude J. Davis | 364 Spencer Ave., Morgantown, W. Va. |
| Mrs. Ann Dodson | Rt. 2, Box 418-A, Richmond, Va. |
| Mrs. J. H. Frantz | 813 Tremont Rd., Salem, Va. |
| H. H. Harned | Oakland, Md. |
| Mrs. Craven B. Helms | Monroe, N. C. |
| Mrs. E. J. Hillyer | Rock Hall, Md. |
| Mrs. Hubert Johnston | Rt. 1, Box 380, Jamestown, N. C. |
| Mrs. Julian Jones | 202 West End Ave., Cambridge, Md. |
| Mrs. Santelle Jones* | 3409 Hawthorne Rd., Rocky Mount, N. C. |
| W. D. Kelley | 407 Greenbrier St., Charleston, W. Va. |
| Mrs. Guy R. Kirbey | 212 Forrest Ave., Norfolk 5, Va. |
| Mrs. W. C. Landolina* | Arden Forrest, Clemmons, N. C. |
| Dr. Anna M. Lee | 3505 White Chapel Rd., Norfolk, Va. |
| Ralph E. Lewis | 1401 Alabama Ave., Durham, N. C. |
| Samuel H. Luck | 311 Somerset Dr., Baltimore 10, Md. |
| Joseph Lynn, Jr. | Box 323, Buena Vista, Va. |
| Mrs. J. R. McCracken | Rt. 2, Box 72, Walker, W. Va. |
| Mrs. John W. McCoy* | 3450 Windsor Rd., Roanoke, Va. |
| Louis McDonald | 516 Victoria Ave., Lynchburg, Va. |
| Robert McElheny | Black Mountain, N. C. |
| Richard L. Meagher | R.F.D. 4, Box 202, Roanoke, Va. |
| Mrs. Robert L. Munn | 106 Bounty Rd., Bayside, Va. |
| C. C. O'Brien** | 1216 Bellvue St., Greensboro, N. C. |
| Mrs. C. C. O'Brien | 1216 Bellvue St., Greensboro, N. C. |
| Mrs. D. H. Parham | 3113 Triangle Lakes Rd., High Point, N. C. |
| Mrs. Nelson O. Price* | 107 Wharton, "Jnlpri," Blacksburg, Va. |
| Mrs. Cecil H. Reed | 6313 Glen Oak Dr., Norfolk 13, Va. |
| Ivan Richmond* | 9200 Flower Ave., Silver Spring, Md. |
| Mrs. A. W. Rice | 2817 Avenham Ave., S. W., Roanoke, Va. |

Note: The names followed by an asterisk are Exhibition Judges. Two asterisks indicate a Senior Judge, the others are Garden Judges.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Frank C. Sherrill | 226 Forrest Ave., Norfolk, Va. |
| Mrs. Chas. F. Roberts** | Davidson, N. C. |
| Mrs. H. C. Sledd* | Mt. Sterling Plantation, Providence Forge, Va. |
| Mrs. Harry R. Smith* | 1436 Rankin Rd., Greensboro, N. C. |
| Archie Stanton | 1434 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk 9, Va. |
| Fred G. Stevenson* | R.F.D. 4, Box 450, Roanoke, Va. |
| Mrs. J. L. Summers* | Rt. 5, Box 215, Parkersburg, W. Va. |
| Mrs. F. G. Ward | 1604 James St., Bayside, Va. |
| Mrs. C. L. Watson* | 1624—15th St., Parkersburg, W. Va. |
| Mrs. Berkley Williams, Jr.* | 364 Albemarle St., Richmond, Va. |
| John H. Wilson | 3401 Rockingham Rd., Greensboro, N. C. |

OUR REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Today's date is August 30, 1963. I sit at the dining room table to scribble a "message" that will be deciphered Tuesday and sent on its way to our editor.

Weather permitting, I hope to just about complete our planting of the tall bearded irises tomorrow. A very few spurias, a half dozen Japs, four or five arils, quite a few Dutch—these go in ere long and another season of planting will be over. I am humbly grateful for the health and will to work.

I had a letter recently from a member asking for a report on the Region. I sat down to reply—only to find myself tongue, or finger tied. Generally, your Region is in very good shape. It continues to grow. All the chapters but one are well organized and function as chapters.

Looking back I judge the finest gift Region 4 has had was the organizational work of our own Mr. Iris, Claude C. O'Brien. My chief contribution will have been the declaration and concurrence that each organized area was a "chapter" of Region 4.

Our annual Regional meetings are a somewhat recent innovation, yet are proving to be very beneficial. Do you

realize that about twenty-five per cent of our membership attends our Regional meetings, but that only about two per cent attend the National meets? It seems to point to a trend. Many will contend that regular Regional meetings are the finest thing that has happened to our Region. I would not be too quick to call them wrong. Our meetings grow in importance and benefit each year.

One thing does concern me, and I fear I started it all. I am more or less convinced we should plan our meetings only one year in advance. I know of no other Region doing the preplanning we have been doing. It is true we might not see them so carefully planned and well grown, but I'm somewhat certain this would be to the greater benefit of the iris. At least we'd see them as they are in every day life.

And now, without permission, let me quote verbatim from a letter received today from one who wants more iris shows. Read carefully: "..... an opportunity to prove to other flower specialists that Iris is the queen of them all, that it presents a more spectacular show than any other flower, that its lasting qualities are greater both as a specimen and as an arrangement bloom. They neither fall off the stem as do roses, camellias, or chrysanthemums. They are not bothered with petal blight as are camellias. They do not ruin the design of an arrangement as does a rose, by opening up too wide. They condition as well (even better) and with as little effort. The extra buds to the socket takes the place of the faded flower. Not so with the other special flowers mentioned, for they have to be disbudded (the H. T. rose, which is the general show rose.)

No other flower has the diversity of color and color combinations. There is a diversity of form and texture as well. Its substance is not surpassed by any other flower. These are facts that every irisarian should realize—the general public does not

I appreciate the letter and wanted to share it with you. Will you read it again? It is in such letters I find my reward.

To be perfectly frank it is no easy matter to be your R. V. P. There are days when but little goes right. No matter the desire; it is impossible to please everyone. From some source must come courage to say "it is so", knowing full well some will be unhappy. Somehow, when the bottom of the well has been found there is always a letter such as the one quoted from.

We are past the 500 mark membership wise! I had a letter from Fred today saying we are 503, but some are on the verge of becoming drop-outs. I will write all chapter chairmen about it. No doubt they'll be after you for help before you read this. If they have not been, please do go quickly and help return these wandering ones to the fold.

I have talked with Ivan Richmond by phone and can report to you that we will meet with the C and P Chapter in '64 as originally planned. Others will have more to say about this in this issue.

You were promised a story on the art of contemplating a flower. I've a notion that a letter from Fred Stephenson to the effect the strayed ones have returned would help in the writing a such a story!

Sincerely,

EARL T. BROWDER, R. V. P.

P.S. I plan to use excelsior and mulch varieties set in August and afterwards this year. If I lived where I could get it, I think I'd use pine straw.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

September 1, 1963

By F. G. STEPHENSON, Membership Chairman

DECEASED:

Mrs. J. C. Barker, Blue Ridge Chapter

Mrs. John Barron, C and P Chapter

ERRATA:

Mrs. A. W. Bachman is shown as being in Western N. C. instead of Eastern N. C. Chapter.

In Norfolk Chapter the Weldon Ballard membership should read Mr. and Mrs.

Also in Norfolk Chapter the address of Mr. and Mrs. Upshur Wilson should read 1514 Nelms Avenue instead of Helms Ave.

In Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter the address of Dr. Donald W. Mitchell should read 9020 Howser Lane, Lanham, Maryland.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Berkeley Davis should be listed under Mountaineer Chapter instead of Southern W. Va. Chapter.

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Blue Ridge Chapter

Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Russell, Box 132, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Norfolk Chapter

Mrs. E. A. Fussell—Change to Chesapeake, Va., instead of Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Munn—Change to Virginia Beach, Va., instead of Bayside.

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Seay—Change to Virginia Beach, Va., instead of Bayside.

Mrs. Earl Sullivan—Change to Chesapeake, Va., instead of Norfolk.

Mrs. F. G. Ward—Change to Virginia Beach instead of Bayside.

CANCELLATIONS:

Mrs. J. B. Harris, Blue Ridge Chapter.
Mrs. Bertha Sullivan, Blue Ridge Chapter.
Mrs. Cecil Newsome, Blue Ridge Chapter.
Mr. Leonard Stulman, C and P Chapter
Miss Galia Minor, Mountaineer Chapter.
Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Colborn, Jr., Marydel Chapter.
Mrs. J. Robert Chrisman, Eastern N. C. Chapter.
Mr. and Mrs. Justus J. Bird, Sr., Southern W. Va. Chapter.

NEW MEMBERS:

Blue Ridge Chapter

Mrs. B. F. Clark, 329 Wagner Court, Danville, Va.
Mrs. W. C. Coleman, 3403 Windsor Rd., S. W., Roanoke, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Norcross, 4535 Cordell Dr., S. W.
Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. Felix E. Obenshain, 2446 Montvale Rd., S. W., Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. R. L. Robertson, 2915 Mt. Pleasant Blvd., S. W., Roanoke, Va.
Miss Dale Saunders, 417 E. Thomas Street, Danville, Va.
Mrs. C. P. Stephenson, 3536 Windsor Rd., S. W., Roanoke, Va.

Mountaineer W. Va. Chapter

Mr. George Mullen, Shepherdstown, W. Va.

C and P Chapter

Mrs. J. Robert Betz, 4139 Whittlesey Ave., Baltimore 36, Md.
Mr. Hervey E. Caton, Route 1, Box 30, Springfield, Va.
Mr. Thomas R. Ford, 13012 Estelle Rd., Silver Spring, Md.
Ellamay Hollis, 11335 Melclare Drive, Beltsville, Md.
Mr. Howard M. Hodge, 436 W. Greenwood Rd., Linthicum Heights, Md.
Mr. William J. Hull, Darlington, Md. 21034

Dorothy G. Pfeiffer, 1724 Nursery Road, Linthicum Heights,
Maryland

Mrs. Fred A. Vogel, Westwood Manor, Havre de Grace, Md.

Western N. C. Chapter

Mrs. Frank Pearson, Box 747, North Wilkesboro, N. C.

Eastern N. C. Chapter

Mrs. Pearlie Gasser, Elon College, N. C.

Southern W. Va. Chapter

Mrs. Vernon Nichols and

Mrs. Bernard Fitch, 229 Rosemont Ave., South Charleston,
West Virginia

MEMBERSHIP:

| Chapter | Members | Potentially Delinquent* |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Norfolk | 44 | 9 |
| Blue Ridge | 71 | 15 |
| Richmond | 25 | 2 |
| Mountaineer | 11 | 2 |
| Central W. Va. | 20 | 2 |
| Southern W. Va. | 69 | 6 |
| C and P | 93 | 11 |
| Marydel | 31 | 2 |
| Western N. C. | 53 | 10 |
| Eastern N. C. | 85 | 19 |
| Totals | 503 | 78 |

* These memberships expired June 30 but to date renewals have not been reported by St. Louis.

Note to Chapter Membership Chairmen: Please post your records from the above report as no individual reports will be sent out covering the items herein reported. Next individual report will be made to chapters about November 15.

MEET YOUR NEW EDITOR

By Earl T. Browder

Dr. Donald W. Mitchell was born in Minnesota in 1911. His parents were active in school teaching and administration. In 1920 the family moved to Southern California and lived there until 1939 at which time Dr. Mitchell received a Ph. D. in History from the University of Southern California.

He taught in High School in California from 1933 to 1941 at which time he joined the Social Science Division of Sam Houston State College, Huntsville, Texas, where he was very active in writing and lecturing. In 1947 he moved to Rutgers University but left in 1949 to accept a position with the Department of the Army in Washington, D. C., and is presently a member of the faculty of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair.

Since 1938 Dr. Mitchell has produced several books and several hundred articles. He is married and has two children, a son and daughter, both of whom are married. He is chairman of the Board of Directors of the First Christian Science Church, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Gardening interests started while he was in California, though he did not get interested in floriculture until he moved to a two-acre home in Lanham in 1950. His main interests are his 900 varieties of iris. However, he also raises about 170 roses, many gladioluses, daffodils, daylilies, peonies, and African violets. To balance the garden there is an orchard, a small vineyard, berries, vegetables, ornamentals, and over an acre of lawn.

He says "We call it Acorn Hill because of the fifteen large oaks."

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

By Donald W. Mitchell

Last April when we agreed to replace Mr. Richard L. Meagher as Editor of **Newscast** we did it with eyes wide open as to the requirements of the job. Any magazine editor who is worth his salt is compelled to devote a great deal of time to it. He is also under the necessity of maintaining effective contact with potential contributors who will, or at least should, write most of any given issue.

In this particular instance success in raising or even maintaining the present high status of **Newscast** depends on contributions received from irisians in Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Some of you we have had the pleasure of meeting on tours or at the last regional meeting. Where we have not had this pleasure we hope to hear from you in writing. Please keep us abreast of the activities in your area. Professional articles, news of shows, tours, and meetings, varietal and cultural comments, announcements, gleanings from the robins—all are welcome grist for the mill. Because Mrs. Shirlee Hutmire of Takoma Park, Maryland, has agreed to serve as a typist, it is even possible to accept hand written manuscripts, providing they are legible. The editor can and will do whatever polishing is required but the information and thought content should come from you.

For this reason we are requesting each chapter to name a person to keep the editor informed of local activities. This is the first step toward meaningful communication. Material should be gotten to the editor at least one month prior to the date of publication. For the January 1964 issue it should reach us by December 1, 1963. The ideal situation would be to have more good material on hand than could be used.

Because publishing costs in the D. C. area are about 30 percent higher than in the rest of Region 4 it has been neces-

sary to reach a compromise arrangement. We will do the editing in Maryland but publication and distribution will continue to be done from Roanoke, Virginia, with Mrs. Rena Frantz in charge of that end of the operation. While this is not the ideal arrangement it should save several hundred dollars a year. Moreover, the work of our publisher, Walters Printing and Manufacturing Company of Roanoke, has been eminently satisfactory.

Attention of readers of this issue is particularly directed to the varietal comments by Ralph and Helen Lewis. During the past season we visited eight or nine gardens, mainly in the northern portion of Region 4 and saw probably 1200 varieties in bloom. Hence, a few comments may to some degree round out the Region 4 picture.

Some of our own best performances were those of Henna Stitches with three gorgeous bloom stalks on a one year old plant, the dwarf Wilma V which produced five bloom stalks and fifteen increases in its first year, Orange Crush which fairly surpassed such more expensive oranges as Orange Parade and Chances Are, a number of fine blacks led by Black Swan and Edenite, and the surprise late season showing of All Eternity. This 1962 Tell introduction was a real revelation. Light lavender buds opened to a huge white flower with the barest suspicion of lavender. Standards were rounded and closed and the falls, which fell nearly vertically, were large and delicately laced at the bottom. The flower was so unbelievably beautiful as to leave the visitor with a feeling of awe and solemnity. Despite the competition afforded by Henry Shaw, Fluted Haven, Poet's Dream, Celestial Snow, and other fine whites we would have to rate this one the most beautiful white we have ever seen. Tell writes me that it is a little bit weak from the standpoint of resistance to heat. If so this is the only weakness. At least with us this variety is an excellent reproducer and a large and vigorous grower. Our only reservation is that we have yet to hear of this iris from anyone else and are wondering whether it was poorly distributed,

bloomed too late at Denver to receive notice, or failed to do as well elsewhere as at Acorn Hill.

This year for the first time we had large numbers of the White hybrids and the recent introductions of Lloyd Austin in bloom. Both types were interesting and certainly different. The White arilbreds bloomed well but were somewhat weak growers. Their early bloom and exotic mixed colors nevertheless were a real addition to the garden. Lloyd Austin's irises were good growers and bloomers and in some instances were unique in form. Personally we did not care for their color. In gardens where space is not a problem there probably should be some of each of these two types. But we couldn't recommend discarding many of the standard varieties in their favor.

The best we saw in the various color classes are as follows:

Orchid: Swiss Charm, Lovely Diana, Dave's Orchid, Amethyst Flame, Merry Lynn, Imperial Amethyst.

Orange: Orange Crush, Orange Parade, Chances Are.

Reds: Nothing terribly good. Captain Gallant, Fire Brigade, Brigadoon.

Lt. Yellow: Rainbow Gold, Idaho Gold, Honey Hue.

Pinks: Jan Elizabeth, Pink Flurry, Oriental Pearl, Happy Birthday.

Blacks: Black Swan, Edenite, La Negraflor, Black Onyx.

Browns: Olympic Torch, Allaglow, Brass Accents, Doctor K, Millionaire, Caribou Trail, Butterscotch Kiss, Bronze Bell.

Purples: Sultan's Music, Dark Mood, Purple Haven, Belton Beauty; Gracious.

Whites: All Eternity, Fluted Haven, Henry Shaw, Mazatlan, Cloud Dancer, Poet's Dream, Celestial Snow, Swan Ballet, Frost and Flame.

Violet: Deep Space, Mountain Music, Twilight Zone, Lynette.

Amoenas: Toll Gate, Wood Pigeon, Blackstok, Whole Cloth, Superlation, Nashborough.

Lt. Blue: Sparkling Water, Spring Valley, Blue Parasol, South Pacific, Azure Haven, Marriott.

Med. Blue: Galilee, Jan Hess, Pacific Panorama, Jean Sibelius.

Dark Blue: Royal Canadian, Allegiance, Indiglow, Blue Baron.

Green: No good ones. Green Quest and Jade Queen are good iris but not green. Green Hat and Green Chance the best of the oldies.

Lavender: Utah Valley, Banbury Cross, Lovely Letty, Melodrama.

Rose: Giant Rose, Winged Fuschia.

Apricot: Country Cuzzin, Orange Frills.

Creams: Cream Crest, Ivory Work.

Yellows: Gold Formal, Golden Masterpiece, Techny Chimes, Gold Cup, Flaming Gold.

Plicatas: Henna Stitches, Karachi (on bloom but not on plant), New Adventure, Rococo, Dotted Swiss, Dot and Dash, Paper Doll, Azurite, My Honeycomb, Full Voltage, Dancing Tiger, Memphis Lass.

Miscellaneous: Donna Schaan, Mauve Dusk.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
Region IV, Annual Board Meeting Minutes

(Note: This was a free discussion meeting, therefore, it's informality is reflected in the minutes.)

The annual Board meeting of Region IV, American Iris Society, was held at dinner in Charleston, West Virginia, on Friday, May 24, 1963, 6:30 P.M. with seventeen members present.

Mr. Earl T. Browder, Regional Vice-President, presided and opened the meeting with a welcome and an expression of regret for the absence of Bill Kelly, who was ill. Bill has done a tremendous amount of work on the Centennial Garden and on preparation for this Regional meeting. Mr. Browder stated that Mrs. J. B. Crozier is standing in for him.

Mr. Browder announced that Dick Meagher has resigned as Editor of Newscast and that Rena Frantz will act as Editor pro-tem for the July issue only. Beginning with the October issue, Dr. Donald W. Mitchell of Maryland will become Editor. Mr. Browder spoke in glowing terms of our Regional publication and of how much Dick has done to improve it.

Because of last winter's damage in most sections, each chapter chairman was asked to appoint someone to write for Newscast a report of the iris season in his particular section, telling the kind of damage done and what is proposed to do about it for next year. "Do we mulch? With what?" Mr. Claude C. O'Brien suggested that each writer state what exposure the garden has and whether it is early or late. These articles are to be sent to Rena Frantz by June 20.

Mr. Browder made a plea to board members to see that stories get to the Editor of Newscast for publication. He further explained that it is necessary to have money to publish Newscast and the main way we raise money is through auctions

and sales. At this point, he called on Scott Bowers, Regional Auction Chairman, for a report.

Scott stated that the purpose of iris auctions is not only to raise money but to bring iris people together. He urged each chapter to participate. He is preparing to immediately redistribute what information he has about auctions.

Mr. Browder spoke of the difficulty being encountered in maintaining the Centennial Garden. It is hoped that the situation will be straightened out and that the garden can be kept. Meanwhile, until this problem is resolved, there will be no distribution of iris to the various chapters for the auctions. (Note: It was later decided by the body of the convention to hold our 1964 meeting at Charleston if the Centennial Garden can remain undisturbed. It was also strongly recommended that each member write to: Paul H. Anderson, President, Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission, Charleston, West Virginia, urging that this beautiful site be kept intact.)

The next subject taken up was Membership. Mr. Browder referred to new members as the life's blood of the organization. "We must have new members, but even more important is keeping the members we already have."

Fred Stephenson, Regional Membership Chairman, gave a report of his activities and announced that an up-to-the-minute, correct file of members is now being maintained. There are four dates established by National AIS for new memberships and renewals: February 15, June 30, August 15 and December 31. 168 of our Region IV memberships expire on June 30 and Fred asked that every effort be made to retain these members other than bribing or begging. As of May 24, 1963, Region IV has 476 members. The board was urged to "put us over the 500 mark" during the coming year. Fred presented the group with a mimeographed analysis of Region IV membership. He closed his report with a comment on the success of the questionnaire which was included in the April Newscast. He is getting very interesting and profitable information.

Mr. C. C. O'Brien, National Membership Chairman, stated that Region IV now stands fourth in number of members and that we have progressed from fifth to fourth place in the past year. He emphasized the importance of garden contacts in obtaining new members. He suggested that each issue of Newscast contain a list of new members. Fred Stephenson stated that he will provide this list for each issue of Newscast and will also make lists of members who would like their gardens visited next year, this information to be obtained from the above mentioned questionnaire.

Mr. O'Brien spoke of the importance of publicity. He has recently had a television interview in his garden. He said that we need to get into our newspapers information on the proper way to grow iris and suggested that we get representatives of the papers to come to our gardens.

Mr. Browder then introduced our new editor of Newscast, Dr. Donald W. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell announced that for persons who cannot type information for Newscast, he has a volunteer to do the typing. "You don't have to hold off because you can't get it typed."

Mr. Browder said that Jack Miller has an addition to his family. He has resigned and Mr. Ivan Richmond of Silver Springs, Maryland, is the C & P Chapter Chairman.

Mr. Browder then called on Dr. Lewis (Of Ralph and Helen Lewis, Region IV Robins Chairmen). Dr. Lewis, for the most part, spoke of robins in relationship to their value as a means of keeping interest throughout the year. There followed some general discussion on robins for young people and it was expressed by several members that we do not yet have enough youngsters in Region IV to make a robin practical, but that our young people should be encouraged to join the National robins in their age group.

Mr. E. L. Poff, Treasurer, did not give a formal report since it had been published in Newscast, but he stated that

the balance was approximately \$550.00 less than the figure shown in that publication.

Mr. Browder asked that Newscast be of somewhat uniform size and suggested 50-60 pages as sensible and practicable.

Frank Sherrill, Chapter Chairman, Western North Carolina, said that his chapter has grown too large and he is attempting to rectify the situation by re-division into four chapters. In this connection, Rena Frantz urged that growth be encouraged by the "clump" with a thought to formation of future chapters or sub-chapters.

John Wilson, Chairman, Eastern North Carolina Chapter, spoke of iris shows as a fine means of spreading the word on iris. At this time, there was a short discussion of the Judge's Training Program and it was the general feeling of the group that it had been valuable and should be repeated next year. John said it would be done.

Mickey Kirby, Historian, stated that it is impossible for her to keep any kind of record of iris activities unless she gets the information.

Delia Munn said there has been some confusion in the name of her chapter. It shall henceforth be known as the Norfolk Chapter, AIS.

John Wilson offered North Carolina for the 1965 Regional meeting. The North Carolina Auction will be held at John's home in Greensboro, North Carolina on Saturday, June 29.

Meeting was adjourned to attend a social hour.

RENA FRANTZ, Acting Secretary

TALL BEARDED IRIS

By H. H. Harned

I have been somewhat surprised at the number of letters and comments received since the initial article in this series appeared in the July issue of Newscast. From the general context of these letters it seems that others, like myself, are not satisfied that we have reached the stage of perfection, growth and color that we would like to see come about. Starting with that premise I would like to suggest that we breeders, growers, fanciers and garden lovers do something about it.

The big question is: What can I do, or perhaps what can we do? Perhaps the easiest way to answer that question is to say that we must have a better understanding of what is now and what's wrong with things as they are. To those who are satisfied to grow what others have selected and introduced I would simply say so be it. But for those who are curious, concerned, dissatisfied and anxious for some changes I cannot but advise a very simple rule to follow. Grow the best you can find and try to bring change and improvement through breeding. Everything we grow in our iris gardens has come because someone has had a hand in assisting nature to bring about change and improvement. Remember this—nobody can create, but everybody can assist nature and thus bring about change, if not improvement. Change as to color, form, size, substance and even longer period of bloom, perhaps a true reblooming type of iris—one that will grace our gardens from spring to fall. Do I hear someone remark "we have rebloomers already?" That's true. And yet can we count on these to perform, season in, season out, in all sections, under all conditions? Of course we cannot. So what can be done about it?

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
And your young men shall see visions,
And your old men shall dream dreams." So tis said
in the Bible. And while some of us are not yet young enough to see
visions, nor yet old enough to dream dreams is it unthinkable

that we all can visualize some better color, or even dream of a more ideal tall bearded iris! All it takes is a little imagination, some more than average breeding material and a willingness to explore.

Suppose, for example, we go back a few years and take a look at the red and pink iris that were then popular. In the so called red class we had Bruno, Sherbert, King Tut, Cardinal, Dauntless, Cinnebar, Omaha and Ethel Peckham. Through inbreeding, outcrossing and line breeding we have watched them develop into: Defiance, Town Talk, Forward March, Ylem and many others.

What about the pinks? Who remembers the work with such things as Aphrodite, Susan Bliss, Dream, Midgard and the once popular Pink Satin? Now we are growing (and using) such advanced pinks as Spindrift, Premier Peach, Seventh Heaven and Heartbeat and getting yearly advances.

Without trying to trace the development of the flamingo pinks or the combined strains of the reds into the present generation I would rather suggest that each of us think in terms of developments that have come because many breeders were forward looking, careful in planning and never satisfied with what was then considered the Omega in the tall bearded iris.

What of the future? Is it to be but a dream, or a vision? Can we rest on the assurance that we are growing the very best and thus be satisfied? Or do we find our longings, our imaginations, our desires stimulated to the degree of wanting to do something more, something better? Do we feel that there is no future, no chance for change, or improvement or perhaps the development of additional colors? Once there were no peach or cream or apricot or orange shades—all have come through the experiments with the pinks. Once there were no royal purples, or even maroons, or rose tones—all these and many more came through red breeding; more are coming each season.

And so may this little article stimulate curiosity, the desire to explore and much more important the need to have a planned

breeding program. I care not what your color field may be, or how you plan to go about doing something to satisfy that longing for something different or better—just so you do not stagnate, are not satisfied with things as they are. Suppose Luther Burbank had been satisfied with the wild daisy, or the plum and the apricot, where would we have found the plumcot, the nectarine or the beautiful garden flowers we so proudly display in our gardens today? So be curious, be an investigator or a planner and see if you do not agree that it's the most rewarding part of the hobby. Call it hybridizing if you will, or breeding or even just "taking a chance" and see if you do not agree with me that to fully enjoy this hobby you must do much more than plant a rhizome and wait for it to bloom. I know whereof I speak for have been collecting, growing and breeding tall bearded iris for over thirty five years and it's fun, rewarding, stimulating and fruitful. Try it and see if I'm not right.

THE CHARLESTON MEETING

By Donald W. Mitchell

The annual meeting of Region 4 was held at Charleston, West Virginia on May 24-26 with somewhat over 100 irisarians in attendance. The Daniel Boone Hotel in downtown Charleston served as convention headquarters and also furnished accommodations for most of the delegates.

The opening move of the meeting was a Friday night meeting of the Executive Committee comprising the officers of the Region and the respective chapter presidents. This followed an informal but very pleasant social hour at which prominent irisarians renewed friendships and exchanged professional gos-

sip. Since it was the writer's first convention he found it especially pleasant to meet people he had known earlier only by correspondence such as Ralph and Helen Lewis, Frances Brown and Rena Frantz, and others such as Claude O'Brien and Earl Browder whom he had met but did not know at all well.

The meeting of the Executive Committee was pleasant and somewhat informal as indicated by the minutes in another section of Newscast. The Centennial Garden was a topic of particular interest and Mr. Browder, substituting for Bill Kelley who was ill, announced that the West Virginia members were attempting to keep the garden but were not certain of success. On the chance that they could succeed they planned to invite the Region to Charleston again in 1964, providing the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Chapter would accept a year's postponement until 1965 for their turn at entertaining the Region. President Ivan Richmond was agreeable to the year's postponement and the arrangement was formalized at the banquet the following evening.

The program for Saturday called for morning visits to the gardens of Earl Browder and Sam Poff in nearby St. Albans, followed by an afternoon in the Centennial Garden and an evening banquet. Unfortunately the weather did not aid in these arrangements since a fine cold rain set in which gradually increased in intensity. The writer had packed lightly and flown in but fortunately was able to flag transportation with Mr. and Mrs. Richmond who had driven in and who also happened to have a small umbrella in the back of their car.

Since the gardens of Earl Browder and Sam Poff as well as the Lewisburg place of Bill Kelley were described in the July issue of Newscast no attempt will be made to fully describe them again. One point observed was that such varieties as Edenite, Black Swan, and La Negraflor were far lighter in color than when grown in our area of Maryland. Thus La Negraflor in Charleston was a dark purple while at Acorn Hill it is a two tone with dark purple standards and black falls. Again, while Edenite showed a great deal of red in Mr. Brow-

der's garden, at my place the predominant color was jet black with the red just discernible. Ralph Lewis told me it was a matter of soil and that in North Carolina he had noted the same lightening in color of the blacks.

The visitors to the Centennial Garden faced two disappointments. In the first place the weather had turned into a steady rain which discouraged all but the hardiest irisarians. In the second place the bloom in most beds was down to a very disappointing 10 to 15 percent. It was obvious that great expense, time, and engineering skill had been devoted to the making of the Centennial Garden with its 24 beds built at the base of a circular mound. The approximately 570 varieties included beds donated respectively by Tell, Cooleys, Schreiners, Eden Road, Landsend, Soo Preme, Powell's Iris Haven, Jeanette Nelson, Mission Bell, Harold Harned, Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Knocke, and Earl T. Browder. One well filled bed was devoted to Region 4 seedlings. The writer made a very careful survey of all varieties in bloom and particularly liked Imperial Amethyst, Sunday's Child, Winter Song, Tickled Pink, Angel Image, Henry Shaw, Tonalea, Blue Mesa, Soaring Kite, Atmosphere, Viking, and Helen Traubel. The tragedy of Centennial Garden was to be found in a few words: the worst weather in a generation. In many cases bloom stalks had rotted. In other instances iris had been started into growth as a result of warm weather and then been nipped by a late frost. In no garden seen this year was winter injury so obvious and serious as the Centennial Garden.

Our hosts had prepared for the bad weather and served excellent box lunches in a nearby building. Here I met many more prominent irisarians including Dr. C. J. Davis who, like me, had just finished writing a book, Scott Bowers who answered some eager questions about the successful North Carolina auctions, and several friends from Maryland's Eastern Shore who had joined our C. & P. iris tour the preceding week.

After lunch the visitors separated. A few went back to the gardens we had seen in the morning, others returned to

their hotel or went sightseeing. Since I raise about 170 rose bushes I was one of a number who visited a rose show then in session at the State Capitol. I was presentedly joined by Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Richmond and Mrs. Frances Brown. We finished the show and then did a little shopping in Charleston.

The Saturday evening meeting featured a superb and very abundant smorgasbord, some business, a speech by Professor Zurbrigg, and the showing of several large collections of slides, some local and others supplied by the Schreiners. Two important decisions were made regarding the 1964 convention. It was voted to hold it again in Charleston and to wait until 1965 to accept the invitation of the C. & P. chapter, with the understanding, however, that this arrangement could be modified by arrangement of the two presidents concerned. Also, because of the uncertainties of iris bloom, the matter of date was left open to be filled in later.

On Sunday morning the convention members divided. A large group went on to Lewisburg to see the Kelley Garden. A few caught planes to Denver. The necessity of being at home during the height of the bloom season determined the course of the writer. However, since no plane left for Washington until early afternoon there was plenty of time for church and reading. After catching a plane the rest was easy and at exactly 4 P.M. I was able to relieve my wife in waiting on persons wishing to place iris orders.

CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEECH

By Lloyd Zurbrigg, Radford College

In a recent publication entitled *Treasures of the Garden* by Anthony J. Huxley, seven flower families are given separate chapters of their own. The third of these is devoted to the iris, preceded only by the water-lily and the rose. There may be no great significance to the author's choice, but there is surely some significance, and we may be proud of the ever-higher place of prominence that the iris is taking.

Of the iris Huxley says:

This is a truly admirable flower. When it tears the long sheath in which it was so tightly folded, it opens like a wonderful piece of architecture, a sort of belfry with precious facings, decked in tapestry of multicolored velvet. Yet it is misleading to speak of tapestry when trying to evoke the substance of these flowers, which give the illusion of being composed of color in its pure state.

This description applies in most of our minds to the tall bearded iris that are the result of hybridizing, largely by amateurs, in this twentieth century. Yet it could apply with equal value to the varieties of iris *Kaempferi* evolved by the Japanese hybridizers in a somewhat longer period of time, or to some of the wild species of iris that nature herself evolved. Many of us believe that those words of the Galilean, "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these," referred not to a lily, but to an iris, possibly *Iris Nazarena* which still grows near the village where He was raised. (For a more recent confusion of the iris and the lily, consider the fleur-de-lis, the royal emblem of France.)

Of the many charms of the iris, surely the most prominent has been signalled in the name given to it. Named in honor of Iris, messenger of the gods, "whose luminous scarf, trailing

behind her as she sped through the skies, formed the rainbow," the genus contains a wider spectrum of color than almost any other. Some families, like the Japanese, seem not to contain yellow as a petal color. Others like *I. tectorum* and *I. cristata* have only violet and white forms to date. Yet it is within living memory that the first large-flowered white selfs and yellow selfs were produced in the bearded iris family, and the shell pinks and their derivatives, along with the really black iris are of very recent origin. Therefore one ought to qualify any remarks made on the color potential of any group of species within the genus. Just recently it was believed that the *plicata* pattern could not appear in the dwarf bearded iris, but it has since been proven that the species called *I. cretica* can produce *plicatas* in the first generation when crossed with tall, and we have Dale Dennis, Little Dogie, Knotty Pine and Patretica to prove it.

The search for spectrum blue still continues, but it may be noted in the current Bulletin of the American Iris Society that Stedman Buttrick has registered an iris seedling of his as Killarney Waters and describes it as spectrum blue. No true green has been produced to date, but many bearing the adjective "green" are being registered, and we are optimistic that one will come. Some of you are probably saying: Why have a green iris anyway? The answer must surely be: For its novelty, and for its use in arrangements. Certainly a green flower will have little garden value.

Neither do we have a true red in iris, except in the beards. Very recently I read an article on pigments in iris that stated it would be impossible to get a true red in iris flowers. I am inclined to be skeptical and the hundred-odd hybridizers who are trying to produce one must be skeptical also. On the way many gorgeous flowers are being produced to delight and enchant us.

In addition to the many patterns other than self coloring which are constantly being produced and improved upon, there

are other coloring novelties in the iris world. For a long time gardeners have been able to grow a form of the species *I. Pallida* that has variegated foliage, and it is still listed in many catalogues under the name Zebra. Recently some registrations have been made of new iris with this characteristic such as Cream Cockatoo, Folvar, and King of Nepal, and it appears that they will be able to transmit this characteristic to their progeny. Whether or not the variegated foliage is desirable is a question running through the minds of some of you. Again one must say that its decorative potential is not insignificant and the novelty value high. As with holly, maple, geranium and mock orange, the type of foliage wanted will depend on the individual taste. Gordon Plough, who produced Folvar, has also produced Blackstock, an iris whose stems are so dark as to perhaps merit the name, and this unique feature may some day be combined with purple-based foliage to give us an iris with purple instead of green foliage as one may see in the canna or the maple. The author once had a seedling with half the foliage purple, so it is not as fantastic as it may sound.

One of the most recent novelties in iris is the development of petaloid extensions of the fall at the end of the beard. This characteristic may be seen in many modern iris such as the Schreiner orchid pink family that culminated in Amethyst Flame, or the late A. K. Edmison's Sultan's Capitol, or to go back even further, Mattie Gates. The late Lloyd Austin of California noted this feature in some *plicata* seedlings of the late Sidney Mitchell and through intensive breeding brought this extension from a rudimentary form to a prominent horn or a spoon, or even a flounce. The fact that Happy Birthday, the popular shell pink iris can produce these, though it does not itself possess them, gives credence to the idea that many more of these novelties may be forthcoming. The author once had a single flower on an *amoena* seedling, in which one of the anthers, complete with pollen, had extended itself into a long petaloid formation that was quite conspicuous. All of these features, along with the few double iris already registered, point to the possibility of an alternative form in iris. Since the single form

is so magnificent, it is a question how popular these unusual forms might be. A comparison with the narcissus and tulip families might not be amiss, for there the single forms are still in the majority.

There is another variation in iris that gives great promise. If our favorite flower is to rival the rose this feature will need to be developed just as it has been developed in the hybrid tea, floribunda and even the climbing roses. This is the feature of perpetual blooming. No iris, perhaps, can yet boast such a record in our climate, but it has been reported from California that Persian Pattern gave bloom every month of the year. At the moment, some iris are spoken of as reblooming or remonting, the second bloom of the season generally occurring in September or October, and a few of the latest developments remont in late July and August.

Not all iris lovers will welcome this feature. Bert Wadlund, the Canadian hybridizer who gave us Violet Grace, has no interest in the fall blooming of iris. Fall is the season for Chrysanthemums, he claims. Some commercial growers dislike the feature since it ruins their rhizomes for sale the next year. Yet in spite of these objections I prophesy that the future is with this feature rather than with the conventional once-blooming iris. It requires a bit of faith to hold such a position, for few of the remontant iris can come anywhere near the conventional iris in beauty of flower. (I must add at once that I do not take into account the performance of iris in the Southern California climate, but only where winters are cold). Yet the number and quality of the cold-climate remontants is increasing, and now a number of hybridizers are turning to this field of activity. Surely after a winter and spring such as this one, the prospect of fall bloom would be attractive to many of you!

One advantage possessed by these cold climate reblooming iris as a group is their vigorous growth and their resistance to rot. Obviously they need these two qualities in order to perform well. Extra fast increase will be needed to make new rhizomes when those that would ordinarily be marked for spring

blooming expend themselves in the fall. Otherwise there would be little or no bloom. (e.g. Guiding Star; Encore). The hardiness feature is of utmost importance in the makeup of the cold climate remontants. The bloom buds are the tenderest and most susceptible part of the plant, and since these are sent up in the fall, some are certain to be caught by frost. The plant, therefore, has to be hardy enough to seal off the frozen bud or stem and prevent rot from entering the rhizome itself. It is in this respect that so many of the warm-climate remontants fail, and hence are not of use where winters are cold.

Other features that the remontant iris ought to possess are extreme resistance to leaf spot, and fans of foliage containing at least eleven leaves, with the leaves tightly overlapping at the base so as to avoid collecting water. This foliage will make the iris more attractive during the entire growing season, and at the same time aid the growth of the plant. It may even be possible to develop foliage tough enough to foil the iris borer. For example, the form of *I. pallida* seen in many gardens is seldom as severely infested as most of our garden varieties.

Just at this point it would be well to digress long enough to sound the warning that all iris plantings ought to be sprayed from one to three times each spring with 50 per cent wettable DDT. Otherwise one or two moths having visited your garden, the whole thing may turn into a sickly mess. If one includes Zineb or some such fungicide, it is also possible to control leaf-spot at the same time, and thus improve the appearance of the plants. It has, unfortunately, become almost as essential to spray iris as it is to spray roses.

An alternative taken by some progressive gardeners in recent years is to go over the patch with a flame-thrower in very early spring before growth becomes active. The immediate appearance of the plants after this treatment is distressing, but within two or three weeks they show no signs of the burning.

Certainly the iris is worth this extra bit of care in the spring, since its demands are low for the rest of the year. The

magic of its form, the iridescence or richness of the color, the haunting, indescribable fragrance that it often possesses, reward us bountifully for our care.

I will close with a short poem in honor of the iris:

To The Iris

Not daffodils in yellow, pink or red,
Nodding with optimistic charm,
Freshest of flowers

Not the complacent rose,
Famed in story and in symbol,
Self-assured and proud

Not orchids with exotic spell
Of color and of form,
Children of nature's prodigality

Not these shall have preeminence,
For far round the great circumference
A calling keens the radar of my mind,
Tuned to their color, fragrance, triune form.

It is the iris calls and calms me,
And bracing myself to duties of the day
I fill my bond in human brotherhood.

O calling, calling, calling,
Their voices silent as conscience,
And insistent as beating of my heart.

Flower so all-demanding, I answer.
None may challenge your supremacy!
Your liege proclaims you queen.

CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC TO HOST 1964 REGIONAL

By Donald W. Mitchell

A major snafu over the location of the 1964 Regional Convention has been satisfactorily worked out. At the 1962 meeting at Roanoke the then C and P president, Jack Miller, invited the Region to meet in 1964 in the Washington, D. C. area. The offer was accepted and the leading C and P irisarians made preparations accordingly, ordering new varieties and lifting old clumps. Then, because of the extremely bad luck attending the Centennial Garden in Charleston, the 1963 meeting voted to come back there and see the garden for a second year. Mr. Ivan Richmond, C and P president, was agreeable to a postponement until 1965. In order to make sure that the convention would actually be held there he wrote to the West Virginia Centennial Commission to express the hope that we would be able to return to see the Centennial Garden the following year. He received a courteous affirmative reply.

In early June some of the leading iris growers in the C and P area met and revised their plans on the basis of a 1965 convention. The appropriate committee chairmen were named and a two-day schedule of gardens to visit was adopted. The editor who had lifted nearly 2000 clumps in 1962 made no unusual changes. But some other growers lifted clumps for the second year in a row and made both expensive and time consuming preparations for a convention to be held a year later than they had anticipated.

Meantime all was not going well in Charleston. The Parks and Recreation Commission were unwilling to allow the Centennial Garden its site for a second year. Unfortunately no official word that the West Virginia people didn't want the convention in 1964 reached Mr. Richmond or the editor of Newscast until late August, though the news of the Centennial Garden troubles reached us earlier. Then some time was

required to make a shift in plans. In fact, substitute arrangements still have to be made in the matter of selection of convention headquarters.

A detailed discussion of plans for the 1964 convention will have to await a later issue. The 1965 plans, now advanced a year, call for a meeting in the Washington suburbs, probably in Silver Spring or Takoma Park. The height of the bloom season in this area generally runs from May 15 to May 25. The tours during the last three years, all of which hit the peak of bloom, were held on May 20, May 20, and May 19 respectively. Hence, either May 17-18 or May 24-25 should prove likely dates for the meeting.

On one point there should be little difficulty. Barring impossibly bad weather there should be no shortage of either gardens to visit or iris. The editor directed the C and P tours during the past two years and discovered that a very difficult problem is that of selecting gardens. In 1962 the tour included six gardens. In 1963 it included seven, only two of which were holdovers from the preceding year. Yet at least three to five splendid gardens that met all reasonable requirements were not included in the tour either year. The C and P area includes at least fifteen or sixteen excellent gardens. Further, a majority of them are in the northern and eastern suburbs of Washington within close driving distance of each other.

IRIS OBSERVATIONS IN 1963

By Ralph and Helen Lewis

We were lucky in seeing so many nice things this year that there is no difficulty in getting, not only enough, but too many to choose for comment. We are trying to avoid duplication of our comments for the national bulletin, which we hope you will all see. The governing factor for that article was novelty. In this case we are more or less commenting on the ones that particularly pleased us.

Some of the Region IV gardens visited were O'Brien, John Wilson, Parham, Drane, Johnston, Paquet, Powell, Stadler, Nifong, Jackson, Mamie Wilson, Witherspoon, Browder, Poff, and the West Virginia Centennial Garden. Out of region gardens included Wickersham at Urbana, Ohio; Paul Cook and Mary Williamson at Bluffton, Indiana; Bill Carter at Mitchellville, Iowa; Whiting at Mapleton, Iowa; Soo-Preme in South Sioux City, Nebraska; Ethel Ricker, Sioux City, Iowa; Cliff Smith's Buena Vista Garden at Vermillion, S. D.; and Dr. John Harvey at Wilmington, Delaware.

Listed by color, here are some that we thought were good.

Pink:

Esther Fay—a 1961 pink that is superb. Flowers are large with closed standards, broad strong flaring falls, and true clear pink in color. The branching was good and stems exceptionally sturdy. Performance, for the last two years, is excellent in all locations.

Fairy Fable—a seedling from Lynn and May Hall, that lies between its two parents in depth of color, is equally well formed and substantiated and would appear to be a much better performer than either of them.

L'lita—a beautiful pale apricot pink with almost a self beard. This fine flower is beautifully ruffled and waved and

has closed standards and broad, strong, semi-flaring falls. A fine performer.

Changing World—a fine iris from Region IV, one of Mrs. Paquet's finest, it is a very pale pink or pinkish white that could be considered among the pinks as Rehobeth is among the blues. The flowers are large with semi-flaring falls and closed standards.

Chances Are—a fine apricot pink flower with a noticeably deeper tone beard, that has nicely flaring walls and closed standards. There is lots of ruffling and the substance is excellent. A good performer everywhere we have seen it in the last three years.

Fair Luzon—another true pink with a much deeper toned beard, this has moderately sized flowers that are exquisitely formed and firmly subenced. For the last two years it was a good performer from North Carolina to South Dakota.

Distant Mesa—the blooms are very large, pale lavender pink in color, and excellent both in form and substance.

Other excellent performers were Bon Bon Haven, Cherry Pink, Girl Friday (border iris), Pink Magic, Lorna Lynn, Party Favor, Lynn Hall, Sunday Silk, Compliment, and May Hall.

Reds:

Son of Satan—a deep purple red or plum from the Wickersham gardens. Definitely a different color and beautiful, strong, well formed bloom on unusually tall and well branched stems.

Ruby Mine—this is a very deep red, almost as dark as Blackness. The standards are closed and of satiny texture, and the flaring falls are velvety, with remarkably little marking at the haft. One of Schreiner's best reds.

Burgundy Belle—a 1963 introduction from Ranger X Ebony Echo, this appears to be fully worthy of its two splendid parents. The flower is beautifully formed, of a deep burgundy red, and is strongly subenced.

Stampede—one of the hot reds, from the orange side, that gives a very bright garden effect. One of Chet Tompkin's finest among his many excellent reds, and one that performs well here, giving good increase, lots of bloom, and growing tall, something that many reds will not do in North Carolina.

Crimson Maple—this well formed and excellently subtended flower has unusual depth of color in both standards and falls and sports a blue beard. From its midwestern performance it would appear to be able to resist bad winters.

Other nice reds were Tall Chief, Bang, Fire Brigade, Red Slippers, Captain Gallant, Barbizon, General Mark W. Clark, Donnybrook, Son of Satan, Rampage, and Tillamook.

Blacks:

Dark Splendor—this is a very dark iris approaching black from the blue violet side. The color is intense and live, especially for a flower of so deep a hue. The form is excellent, with tight standards, very flaring falls that carry an exceptionally dark beard, and beautiful overall ruffling. Reported fertile both ways.

Licorice Stick—another blue black of exceptional beauty. The flowers have lots of flare and are highly ruffled, substance is excellent, and overall form is especially good.

Dark Stranger—this very deep colored flower might also be listed as a very dark purple. The form of the flower is beautiful and substance and branching are excellent.

Enchanted Evening—the very large flowers are gracefully formed and nicely waved, with deep purple standards and broad strong velvety black falls.

Tropical Dusk—a fine velvety black from the Whiting garden, that shows quality in every line. We think this iris is a sleeper and is worthy of greater notice and much wider distribution than it has to date.

Some of the other blacks that did well this year were Sable Night, Blackness, Deep Black, Edenite, Dark Boatman, Black

Swan, Black Taffeta, Ecstatic Night (Paul Cook's fine '63 introduction), Rumbling Thunder, Midnight Shadow, Ravenwood, Grand Ruler, and Shades of Night.

Violet, Deep Violet and Purple:

Imperial Woman—this flower is a smooth blue violet with a paler violet beard. Form, texture, and substance are excellent.

Belton Beauty—a deep purple coming from a Snow Flurry-Chivalry cross, that has all the excellence of form and style that one would expect from such excellent blood lines. This year was the first time we had seen this iris and it impressed us very much.

Mountain Music—this is a big flaring dusky rose violet flower. It grows on tall strong stems, and branching is good. Beautiful and fine performer. It has also produced some superb seedlings.

Flyaway—a fine flaring violet with a blue blaze at the tip of the yellow beard. The flower has closed standards and flaring falls and is beautifully ruffled. Fertile both ways.

Lady Angie—a superb deep violet flower of unusual size, beautiful form, and exceptional substance, that holds its head high on tall, strong, and well branched stalks. Like all of Carl Quadros' iris, it is exceptionally fine.

Rhythmic Mood—an exceptionally fine deep violet iris that is exceptionally formed, has a satiny texture, and shows excellent growth habits.

Purple Haven—as always, this iris was superb. The color is very true, flowers are large, beautifully formed, and strongly substantiated. Purple Haven is floriferous, a grand garden performer, and the peer of any flower in its color class.

Other good performers seen were Gay Haven, Blazing Violet, Fox Grapes, Jersey Beauty, Violet Rhythm, Polka Time, Royal Fanfare, Violet Haven, Royal Violet, Twilight Zone, and Violet Harmony.

Orchid, Lilac and Pale Violet:

Sugar Babe—a fine new one ('62), rose violet in color and with very heavily laced petals. Standards are closed and the semi-flaring falls are brown at the shoulders and show a brown beard.

Fox Charm—a pale mauve violet flower with some brown at the hafts. Form is excellent and, in spite of its fragile appearance, it takes wind, rain and hot sun exceptionally well.

Lilac Festival—this one comes about as close to true lilac color as any we have ever seen. In every respect it appears to be a fine iris.

Bengal Beauty—big flowers of a rosy orchid color, have closed standards and semi-flaring falls. The strong stalks are nicely branched.

Lilac Snow—a pale orchid with globular standards and semi-flaring falls, that has excellent substance in spite of its delicate appearance. Charming.

Traumerei—Cliff Smith's beautiful dusky rose violet iris is a sleeper in this color class. Not too showy, but very beautiful in every respect and a fine addition to any iris collection.

Some other good ones were Enchanted Violet, Hermosa Haven, Shadow Waltz, Desert Thistle, Lovely Letty, and Rippling Waters.

Whites:

Piety—a very pure white. The form approaches perfection, substance is exceptionally good. An iris that is very superior in every respect.

Wedgewood Haven—definitely blue white, or even a very pale blue in color. The form is exquisite. Very floriferous, and the flowers are excellently placed on strong stems. This is truly a garden stand-out.

Henry Shaw—one of the all-time great whites. Large, very fluted and ruffled flowers of classical form and great beauty, born on strong and unusually well branched stems.

Red Lance—a fine new, very white flower with a brilliant red beard. Excellent in every way. Here is one that we want very much.

Flying Squadron—a large and beautiful white that seems to have a frosty, almost silvery overlay or sheen. Unusually big, but still well substantanced and well formed.

Other good whites this year were Ruby Lips, Poet's Dream, Rejoice, Fluted Haven, Cloud Dancer, Arctic Symphony, Just Heaven, White Pride, and Cliffs of Dover.

Cream, Ivory and Cream Effect:

Gay Meeting—this exceptionally fine yellow and white is very prolific, so it was introduced at a low price and was apparently neglected for that reason. Fine flowers with clear yellow standards and flaring falls with a white blaze. A superb performer in the garden. A true sleeper.

Crinkled Ivory—unusually large flowers, ivory in color, flushed pale yellow at the heart. The domed standards close, the semi-flaring falls are broad and strong, and the flower is beautifully ruffled.

Pongee Lace—big, heavily laced, and broad petaled flowers of a pale buff or pongee color. Excellently formed and substantanced.

Ivory Work—one of the truly fine ivory colored iris, petals appear to have been carved from ivory, substance is exceptional, form classic. An all-time great in this color class.

Other nice performances were given by Desert Song, Soaring Kite, Amandine, Adorn, Point Lace, Gay Princess, Evening Star, First Kiss, Mooncrest, Cream Crest, and Candle Magic.

Yellow, Gold and Orange:

Sun Haven—another fine Reynolds iris, of a deep golden yellow color, slightly on the old gold side. Standards touch, falls are semi-flaring, and substance is unusually good. This is a real stand-out in the garden.

Princess Anne—a fine yellow with tight standards and semi-flaring falls with a white blaze at the tip of the beard. Outstanding.

Bright Forecast—a clear medium gold with orange beard. Well formed flowers are gracefully ruffled and strongly sub-stanced. Very nice.

Gold Formal—an excellent gold self. This is an early iris and can get nipped by frost. Ruffled flowers of large size and excellent form are sub-stanced so that they take heat, wind and rain very well. Floriferous—for us it bloomed with the first and through practically the whole season.

Top Dollar—the most exciting new gold we have seen in the last two years. The color is a deep gold, or perhaps old gold. Form, substance, placement, and branching are exceptionally fine.

Others in this class that did well were Ultrapoise, Orange Jade, Buttercup Bower, Golden Gene, Rainbow Gold, Orange Parade, Bravado, Belle Haven, Golden Years, and Grand Teton.

Brown, Copper and Tan:

Brass Accents—this huge brown and copper iris really puts on a show. Big blossoms of excellent form stood up well in adverse weather, and simply blazed in the garden. The stalks were unusually sturdy and growth habits were very good.

Honey Amber—as seen in the Whiting garden, this was an excellently formed flower whose wide petals were a rich honey brown color. It had a golden beard, was beautifully ruffled, and strongly sub-stanced.

Olympic Torch—just about the most brilliant iris grown today. An orange copper blend of great intensity, it shows considerable color variation with differences in soil and growing conditions.

Rusticana—a large and lively copper brown flower with closed standards and flaring falls that are very clean at the hafts. A worthwhile iris.

Buckeroo—this '61 Kleinsorge introduction is a huge, fine flaring tan flower with deeper markings at the haft, that seems to just fit its name.

Some other good ones were Thotmes III, Treasure Trail, Nut Spice, Brasilia, Bronze Bell, Fire Magic, and Copperopolis.

PLICATAS:

Love Lee—in our opinion, the most beautiful of all plicatas, with deep lavender stitching on pale lavender ground, these perfectly formed flowers are well placed on the stalks. This is an excellent performer, floriferous, prolific, in fact just about all anyone could ask of an iris.

Karachi—a deep purpled plicata whose standards are solidly colored and whose falls have very heavily colored borders. This is a fine and showy flower.

Tea Apron—an exquisitely formed white flower, daintily stitched with violet, that we fell in love with a year ago in Dr. Loomis' garden, and have liked better every time we have seen it.

Rococo—one of the finest of the blue and white plicatas, with clean clear colors and a well defined pattern it deserves its great popularity.

Henna Stitches—a beautifully formed flower with henna markings on a clear white ground. Another grand Gibson plicata.

Others we liked were Easter Parade, Dot and Dash, Girl Friday, Rim Fire, Party Apron, Whirling Girl, Full Voltage, and Memphis Lass.

Blues, Dark, Medium and Light:

Royal Canadian—a very dark iris, violet blue in color, but definitely on the blue side, satiny in texture rather than velvety. The flowers are of good size and excellent form and substance. A fine iris in my own favorite color group, the dark blues.

Indiglow—another superb Schortman iris ('59). A big, floriferous, vigorous dark blue that ranks among the top iris in its color class. Not only is it a beautiful and sturdy flower with excellent branching, but it is an exceptionally vigorous grower and a fine increaser. Its performance has been exceptional in the out-of-region gardens as well as here in Region 4.

Flag Ship—flaring and ruffled, these flowers have an airy, stylish form, are excellently subenced, and of a nice deep blue color. We fell hard for this one as a named seedling in the Whiting garden and have continued to hold it in very high esteem ever since.

Lost River—an excellent large, well formed, medium dark blue flower with a dark beard tipped yellow. Substance, form, branching, and performance are excellent. Fertile both ways.

Blue Linen—a large, wide petaled wisteria blue. This medium blue is finely formed, with closed standards and semi-flaring falls. Substance and branching are good.

Blue Mesa—large medium blue flowers with tight standards and flaring falls that sport a prominent yellow-tipped beard. The stems are unusually tall and well branched. Resistant to very unfavorable weather conditions.

French Flair—a light medium blue that is a reverse bitone, with standards deeper in color than the falls, and the color

deepens in the heart of the flower. Standards are tight and falls flare out almost horizontally. The garden effect is almost the same as the old timer, Distance, that used to draw us clear across the garden.

Royal Image—another superb blue from Dr. Branch. This is a very big medium blue self of excellent form and substance. The beard is a deeper color, substance is excellent, form approaches near to perfection, and the color is a very clear true shade of blue.

Sylvan Stream—a medium blue flower with conical standards and flaring falls, excellent in every respect. This stood up well in heat and wind after some hail. One that we surely want.

Top of the World—an exciting new light blue with a lighter blue area on the falls. Standards are held closely, and the broad semi-flaring falls sport an olive beard tipped blue. Reported to be an unusually good breeder for blues.

Silken Sails—a clear truly light blue with closed standards and lots of flare to the ruffled falls. Beard is golden, substance form, and performance are excellent. One of the best.

Atmosphere—an extremely flaring, beautifully formed light blue with a pale yellow beard, that showed up as a good performer all across the country. Fertile both ways.

Other fine ones were Allegiance, Deep Space, Carolina Royal, Blue Baron, Pierre Menard, Azure Haven, Concord River, Blue Rejoice, Cross Country, Sudburry River, Van Cliburn, Jean Sibelius, Leather Lace, Sparkling Waters, Blue Ballad, Blue Crest, and Foaming Seas.

BICOLORS, BLENDS AND OTHERS

Tollgate—the most striking of any of Paul Cook's Progenitor line, a purple and white. The standards and the falls to about the end of the yellow beard are white and the rest of the falls a deep purple. An excellent performer here in North Carolina, as well as in Indiana and the rest of the midwest.

Real Delight—a gold blend with tight pink and gold standards and semi-flaring deep apricot falls flushed pink at the heart and sporting a red beard. A spectacular flower.

Privolette—a blend of dusky rose and amethyst, with a golden heart, sufficiently pastelled so a glad fancier would call it a "smoky". A big, nicely formed and strongly substanced flower.

Clarion Call—a giant pink, salmon, rose, and lavender blend with a full red beard. Form and substance are excellent. A striking and beautiful iris.

Fire Chief—a brilliant flower; standards are clear, clean gold and the falls are really red with very little gold border showing.

Allaglow—a brilliant golden tan blend, very large and very bright. It shows considerable color variation with variations in soil and growing conditions. Standards are tight, falls flare nicely, and it has good resistance to unfavorable weather conditions.

Nashboro—one of the all time top ranking varieties. Standards are gold and falls a deep red. Form, substance, growth habits, and branching are all fine. An excellent iris.

Congeniality—standards are clear white, the falls are a clean, true light blue. Form is excellent, with tight standards and flaring falls. Form is excellent, with tight standards and flaring falls. Substance is unusually good; it was taking the

rain in Paul Cook's garden with the best of them. We believe that most of the Progenitor iris will show a lot of variation in the intensity of the blue parts due to soil, weather, etc. This is particularly noticeable on the lighter ones, like Congeniality, Emma Cook, and Kiss Me Kate.

Other nice iris seen were Whole Cloth, Miss Indiana, Bold Contrast, Sultan's Music, Kachina Doll, Two Jewells, Emma Cook, Superlation, Bright Cloud, and Kahili.

The authors have definitely tried to make these comments fit in with those submitted to the A.I.S. Bulletin, since we hope you may find the patience and time to read both, if they are published.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to the many irisarians who took time at the height of the season to make us welcome, to point out new varieties and selected seedlings, and to help us in many ways in getting our notes, pictures, and judging chores done in an effective way. Above all, we appreciate the friendships that we have found through our iris hobby. They are priceless.

WINTER DAMAGE

By Donald W. Mitchell

During the business meeting at Charleston our RVP requested each chapter president to appoint someone in the chapter to send a report to the editor of Newscast on winter damage and what protective measures seemed to be in order to prevent a repetition of last year's damage.

To date the response has been less than overwhelming. Nevertheless, winter damage last year was so expensive and

extensive that some consideration of the subject, even on a one man's experience basis, seems to be in order.

So far as winter damage was concerned we were phenomenally lucky. Out of approximately 2000 clumps not a single one was lost due to damage that could be attributed conclusively to the weather. Violet Leather and Mohr Courageous were lost to unknown causes during the winter, simply disappearing in each instance. June Meredith, a variety that has never done well for me, gave up the ghost. A Berta B died from wet rot. Winter heaving forced a few late planted oldies out of the ground but these were easily re-set. Otherwise, no winter losses whatever. Also, no apparent diminution of bloom. Usually I get about 80 percent bloom. In 1963 from clumps nearly all of which were lifted the year before (in some cases as late as November) the percentage of bloom was about 78 percent. Apparently the winter weather did not affect the bloom. The late lifting of some beds probably diminished it to some degree since I noted that clumps lifted early invariably beat those lifted later in both size and bloom.

I cannot fully account for my immunity from damage when most other irisarians in my area were suffering heavy losses. But the name, Acorn Hill Iris Garden, may provide two clues. Our iris are planted on a gentle slope and hence enjoy almost perfect drainage. In the second place, since our two acres includes a great many huge oak trees, we mulched heavily in December with oak leaves, after first putting in limestone and fertilizer to counteract the acid effect of the rotting leaves. We have followed this practice for many years, more to discourage weeds than to afford protection. The leaves are, of course, subject to being blown about by heavy winds. But in December 1962 the fates were kind and the mulching was followed instead by a heavy rain which packed them down. Not until close to the end of the winter were there heavy winds which blew the leaves and by that time they had served the purpose of protection.

RESULTS OF SYMPOSIUM BALLOT, 1963

You voted, and the results speak for themselves. It seems odd that about one-fourth of our members actively participate in all our activities. How very earnestly I wish I could persuade the remaining seventy-five per cent to join in the fun and share the friendship and fellowship that is ours. A few have, and I have warm letters of gratitude from them.

Who will be the first to check our "Top 33" against the 1963 awards to see how we, as a Region, made out? Could be interesting. Here's how we voted:

TOP 33

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| Whole Cloth | 67 | Dot and Dash | 27 |
| Amethyst Flame | 60 | Rippling Waters | 27 |
| Allegiance | 57 | Fluted Haven | 26 |
| Blue Sapphire | 55 | June Meredith | 26 |
| Violet Harmony | 51 | Swan Ballet | 26 |
| Black Swan | 50 | First Violet | 24 |
| Eleanor's Pride | 41 | Happy Birthday | 24 |
| Melodrama | 38 | Olympic Torch | 23 |
| Mary Randall | 37 | Pretty Carol | 23 |
| Edenite | 36 | Indiglow | 21 |
| Frost and Flame | 36 | Lula Marguerite | 21 |
| Butterscotch Kiss | 35 | Truly Yours | 21 |
| Emma Cook | 34 | Curl'd Cloud | 20 |
| Celestial Snow | 32 | Glittering Amber | 20 |
| Rainbow Gold | 29 | Orange Parade | 20 |
| Sable Night | 29 | Rococo | 20 |
| Henry Shaw | 28 | | |

A total of 117 ballots were received and tabulated.

WRITE-IN VOTES

A total of 87 varieties were voted for as "write-ins." These 6 received the highest number of write-in votes:

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Wild Ginger | 5 | Oriental Pearl | 3 |
| Lavish Lady | 4 | Pongee Lace | 3 |
| Spanish Affair | 4 | Spice Island | 3 |

A total of 15 irises each received two votes. A total of 66 irises each received one vote.

Sincerely,

EARL T. BROWDER
R.V.P., Region 4, A.I.S.

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER AUCTION

By Joe Lynn

The Blue Ridge Chapter, Region 4, held an iris auction on Saturday, July 20th, at the home of Mrs. John McCoy in Roanoke. This was our first attempt at an auction and we were most enthused over the results. I hasten to add it was also my first job of auctioneering. I can not vouch for the kind of job I did, but Bill Kelley called from Charleston and asked me to auctioneer for his chapter. Due to a previous engagement, I could not oblige.

The crowd was small, but the bidding was spirited. Thanks to our R.V.P. Earl Browder and several other individuals, we

came up with some wonderful new things. Earl brought some things from the West Virginia Centennial Garden and these accounted for about half of our sales total. Incidentally, our sale amounted to roughly \$432.00. We think that is pretty good for a first try. Delia Munn of the Norfolk Chapter sent us some iris, as did Melba Hamblen of Mission Bell Gardens in Utah, and Helen Graham of El Dorado Gardens in Kansas. We appreciate the kindness of all who contributed.

As a result of our auction and sale, many Blue Ridge Chapter members will have lots of new iris on display next spring. Earl Browder walked off with Melba Hamblen's "Fifth Avenue" for fifty cents (he won it sight-unseen buying chances). The Arthur Davis's took home Judge Guy Rogers "Debonair Blue" and I managed to out bid the crowd for Hamblen's new 63 introduction "Corabande". We saw it in Denver and it was lovely. Marge Murray was a real determined bidder and finally walked off with Helen Graham's Orange Seedling. The color is intense, and just as good as "Orange Parade". Rena Frantz (Chapter Chairman), Polly Cupp and Maude Ruble were the real big spenders of the day.

Our Blue Ridge Chapter is already making plans for next year's auction. We have bought some wonderful things to grow and hope they increase well for next year. These new ones have been spread around among the members. I have some growing in my new bed including "Blazing Violet", "Flyaway", "Pink Ripples", "Baby's Bonnett", "Ruby Lips", and "Rose Flame". We promise to warn you well in advance of the date for next year's auction so you can all plan to be there. The wonderful picnic lunch and fellowship is well worth the trip even if you only buy a couple of "Flags." Maybe next year I'll be asked to auctioneer again, and I'll knock down a couple to you real cheap.

CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC AUCTION

By Donald W. Mitchell

The fourth annual rhizome auction of the Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter, American Iris Society, was held at 2 P.M. on July 13 at the residence of Mr. E. S. Fowler, 520 Notley Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. Weather conditions were perfect and the location of the sale, a three acre suburban place with immense lawns, numerous gardens, and huge shade trees, was so attractive that visitors wandered about the place to observe Mr. Fowler's numerous gardening projects both before and after the auction. The auctioneer's table and chairs for the more than forty persons attending were spread under the trees. Growers from all over Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia were present.

The auction evidenced both lethargy and spirited bidding. Rhizomes of varieties with a catalog price of \$1 or less were placed on the ground and sold at five for \$1. Slightly more expensive varieties retailing for \$1 to \$2 sold at three for \$1. All others were sold by competitive bidding. The chapter's favorite auctioneer and past president, Mr. Sam Luck of Baltimore, was kept away by an emergency and in his absence Dr. Don Nearpass and Dr. Donald Mitchell spelled each other as auctioneers. Mrs. Dorothy Savchuck served as bookkeeper with some assistance from Mrs. Helen Marks. There were no instances of the full catalog price being paid. The highest bid in the four years of the auction—\$7.75—bought a huge rhizome of Edenite. Some other relatively new varieties such as Melodrama were in large supply and sold for less than \$1. All of the auctioned rhizomes were sold, all of the three for \$1, and all but a few of the five for \$1.

In some respects the auction was disappointing. Sales totaled slightly more than \$300 which was well below the figure for last year. Two unusual circumstances probably account for the smaller than usual sale. Most of the main iris growers in the area lifted their beds in 1962 in preparation for the Region-

al Convention in 1964 and this resulted in a reduced quota of new iris with some normally dependable contributors having little to supply. In the second place July 13 happened to be the date of the annual daylily tour and this forced some excellent irisarians who were also daylily enthusiasts to give up one or the other. Those who attended the auction had the pleasure of renewing acquaintanceships and trading gardening gossip, and also getting some excellent iris at low prices.

GLEANINGS FROM REGION IV ROBINS

By Ralph and Helen Lewis

Elizabeth Farrar writes "The winter didn't do as much harm as it might have . . . I learned something that has been very important to me. The source of most of the trouble (from rot) was in dead or underdeveloped bloom stalks. This was just at the beginning of the blooming season and there were many little tufts of foliage where the bloom stalk had been winter-killed and rot had started . . . gently peel those bloom stalk leaves away, clean the bud and dust with fermate (or your favorite rot preventative) . . . just press the base of each one gently—if it was flat, she removed it; if it felt full, plump, alive or whatever you'd call it (a little experience will show you what I mean better than I can tell it), she left it to develop. I am sure I saved a dozen or more plants by using this method, so am passing it on—it's work, but was surely worth it to me."

Shirlee Hutmire says: "Yes, I use Chlorox straight. I always have it on hand, and if the rot is scraped out first, it seems to work as well as powdered sulphur or Carco-X, the other two remedies I've tried."

Kathryn VanDexter: "I lost five from rot and three others I doctored with Aureomycin are struggling to live. That stuff was \$6.50 for one-half pound jar. I use a small talcum can to sift it on. It dries it up." (We, Ralph and Helen Lewis, used liquid terramycin in our milk feeding).

WE NEED NEW ROBIN MEMBERS

Now that the excitement of the iris season is over, and most of us have gone more or less broke buying new things, and gotten our trading over with, we hope that some of you who are not now members of our Region 4 robins will turn your attention in that direction. You can get a great deal of help and fun out of a robin, and there is nothing that promotes friendships and acquaintances among irisarians more. We have several members waiting for a new robin to start and need a few more to get it on its way.

Through our robins we exchanged tips and ideas, ask for help in our own problems, circulate color slides and descriptions of new iris seen, and generally find ourselves with ten or so new iris friends, and an advantage of the Regional Robins is that eventually we get to meet each other.

If you are interested, please get in touch with us.

Ralph and Helen Lewis
1401 Alabama Avenue
Durham, N. C. 27705

ELEANOR AND I

By Fannie Stadler

"Hello—Eleanor—guess what!"

"Yeah—what! Calling me this time of morning—I'm sleepy."

"Gee—Eleanor—the mail done come—and I had a note from Dr. Mitchell—our new editor—wanting to know what we are chatting about on the phone these days—Wake Up! What have we been talking about—Help me think—"

“Yeah—well you could tell him what a good ‘plug’ you got in for our A.I.S. at the Hem meeting.

“That’s so—Reckon I’ll get ‘choked’ if I tell it?”

Well—here goes—During the business session at our Region 15 Hem meeting this summer at Gastonia, N. C., I asked a question concerning our ‘change over’ we are doing in our Region. I called it “A.I.S.” Our RVP turned red and people ‘tittered’ all around and I realized I had made a mistake and tried to correct it and made a still bigger one by saying A.I.S. a second time. Our RVP told me later she felt like choking me. I said: “I was just getting in a ‘plug’ for our A.I.S.” and I found we had iris lovers all over Region 15 A.H.S. Eleanor thinks I should tell you how crazy I am about daylilies, too, and all the new ones I have added this year so Anna will forgive me for embarrassing her so at the meeting! Well I love both Iris and Daylilies but everybody knows I love Iris best—but I got Daylilies worth seeing and, Boy!, they have bloomed ALL the summer.

I had a nice letter from Goldie Browder, too—thanking me for the lemon pie I made for her—She said she bet Eleanor and I had gossiped about her over the phone, because she was so long writing to me—But, honest, Goldie—Hadn’t thought about it—been so busy wrestling with grass and weeds. Want all those iris—which failed to bloom for me last spring to perform next year. I had lots of wonderful bloom on older clumps but from over a hundred new ones set last summer—only six bloom stalks and two of those bloomed with no increase. Of course we blamed all our troubles this year on the terrible cold winter we had. But most of the Iris made it and they are growing nicely. I did lose about ten or eleven—most of those I have replaced—but have not bought many new ones—I gotta see these first—so I did buy some new Daylilies—what’s wrong with that! !—come and see and you tell me!

Well, as I was saying, Eleanor and I were talking on the phone—She’s just about ready to own up I’m a ‘good guesser’

about what will win the Dykes Medal. Last year, I 'crossed my fingers' for Amethyst Flame for '63. Now I want Celestial Snow to win next year—but there are so many others—I really love too, and C.S. may not make it—remember I love white. Even so, crossed fingers may not help. I think Emma Cook is so beautiful—but not quite large enough for me. In my garden and elsewhere I did not see anything I thought was more beautiful than my own beloved Rainbow Gold blooming in the old woodpile spot. This is the best of the gold ones that I have seen. So far I'm not satisfied with many of the orange things—and for me white with red beard none better than old Frost and Flame to me. Maybe I shouldn't say that because all those things that didn't bloom for me this year may have something better when they bloom next spring.

Eleanor has been busy trying to get a bus to Chicago for the meeting next June. We need 30-40 people to make up the load—anybody want to write to her for rates—she says we can pick up folks along the route.

How about new Iris planted this year? Well now, let me tell you what happened to my \$25 Donnybrook which Nifong brought to me last week (August 20th)—This little dog of mine loves to hunt moles, and so all the new row I fixed for new Iris was good hunting ground—so while I was busy picking butter beans she was yelling and sniffing and when I came back across the iris garden, there was Donnybrook quite a piece from the place I had so carefully planted it. Several others almost out of the ground—Did she get a switching! and I don't think she has been near the place since! I haven't told Eleanor—she is off to Norfolk this week. Sure do miss her—So—that's all folks—

Fannie Stadler

P. S. You know I always add a P. S. to my letters so why not here? I was thinking about winter protection—and we may need it before you eavesdrop on Eleanor and me in Jan. I have found that keeping a bucket of sand handy and covering the rhizomes that heave out of the ground with about a cup

full or more is best remedy. I was away last winter is why I blame the loss of some precious Iris and Daylilies. One person I know used a rock to set on the rhizome to keep it under cover and says it works fine—so—let's be prepared this winter—Goo Bye—

REGION IV HYBRIDIZERS DIRECTORY

By Donald W. Mitchell

One of the dreams of Mr. Claude C. O'Brien, former RVP of Region IV, was realized early this year with the publication of the 1963 Region IV Hybridizer's Directory. This is an interesting booklet listing the hybridizers, both professional and amateur in Region IV. The distinction between "hybridizers" or "pollen daubers" lies in whether the person concerned has had iris registered. About sixty A.I.S. members in Region IV are listed in one of these two classifications.

Professor Lloyd A. Zurbrigg of Radford, Virginia, whose speech at the Charleston Regional meeting is printed elsewhere in this issue leads in introductions with a total of 23 dating from 1953-1960. Prof. Zurbrigg has also introduced 11 for other growers. Other senior hybridizers include Mrs. A. W. Steller of Princeton, West Virginia, and Mrs. Nannie J. Paquet of McLeansville, North Carolina, each with six. About the largest scale operations appear to be those of Dr. Don C. Nearpass of Beltsville, Maryland, and Mr. Harold Harned of Oakland, Maryland, each of whom reported over 5000 seedlings. Bill Webster of Beltsville, Maryland, Mrs. Frances Brown of Roanoke, Virginia, and George I. Crossman of Hamilton, Virginia, are other growers reporting large numbers of seedlings.

The Directory in many cases lists the breeding objectives of the hybridizers. That "pollen daubing" can be frustrating is indicated by the refreshingly frank comment of our RVP Earl Browder who reported "600 seedlings—all dogs." Nevertheless it is the extensive work being carried on by several hundred breeders that has made possible the incredibly rapid progress of iris. In this connection an illustration comes to mind. The writer grows a considerable number of oldies and last year he obtained a real prize in *Honorabile*, supposedly the first named variety to be introduced in France in 1840. The plant showed great hardiness and bloomed profusely on 11-in. stalks. The yellow standards and reddish-brown falls were all of an inch in height. Though *Honorabile* was so ugly that I considered it rather interesting, the contrast with such iris as *Deep Space*, *All Eternity*, *Orange Parade*, etc., all growing nearby, was so great as to make it seem doubtful if *Honorabile* was the same type of plant.

The authors, Jim Aultz and Roberta McMullin are to be commended for having produced, from information that was less than complete, a very informative and useful publication. An eight page section on *Hybridizing Hints* should prove especially valuable to beginners.



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