

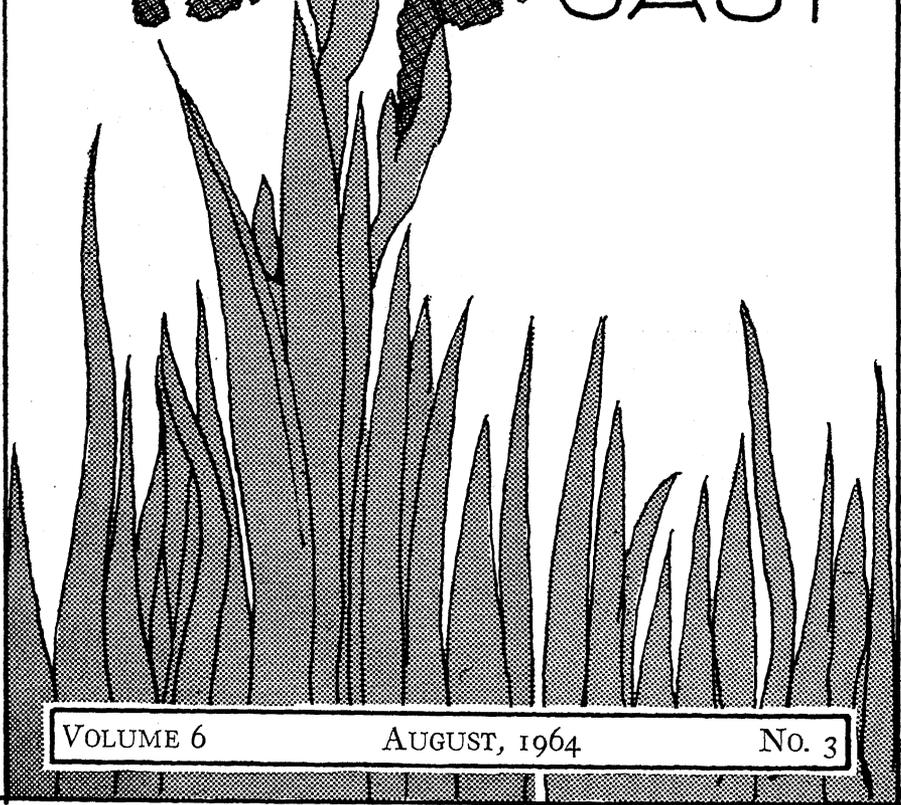
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

# REGION



4

NEWS  
CAST



VOLUME 6

AUGUST, 1964

No. 3



AT THE REGION IV MEETING

L-R—Earl T. Browder, Claude C. O'Brien, Ivan H. Richmond

# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, REGION 4

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT, REGION IV, A. I. S.

January 1 to May 30

Chapter	Type Membership			New Members	Members	
	Family	Ind.	Total		Lost	Gain
C. & P.	6	76	88	6	6	0
E.N.C.	15	50	80	6	4	2
B.R.VA.	16	35	67	6	1	5
S.W.VA.	19	21	59	7	6	1
W.N.C.	8	35	51	2	1	1
NORFOLK	9	27	45	3	2	1
MDEL.	7	10	24	3	6	— 3
RICH. VA.	4	14	22	3	4	— 1
C.W.VA.	3	14	20	1	1	0
M.W.VA.	2	10	14	0	1	— 1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	89	292	470	37	32	5

Considerable activity has taken place within the last two weeks. Let's hope that by the time this goes out to you that we will have gained enough new members to top the 500 mark.

F. G. STEPHENSON

Membership Chairman, Region IV, A. I. S.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST, REGION 4, A.I.S.

Complete as of June 15, 1964

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 Mrs. R. L. Tadlock, Rt. 1, Marshville, N. C.  
 Mrs. J. Dixon Watkins, 162 Montana Ave., Asheville, N. C.  
 Mrs. Guy Whicker, 303 Idlewood Drive, Kannapolis, N. C.  
 Mr. James W. Whitener, 3037 1st Ave., N. W., Hickory, N. C.

### Norfolk Virginia Chapter

Mr. William T. Allen, 10 Kamper Ave., Newport News, Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Weldon W. Ballard, 109 Canal Dr., Chesapeake 6, Va. 23706

Mr. George Bonney, 6113 Studeley Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.  
 Mrs. E. R. Bunch, 5728 Geo. Washington Highway, Portsmouth, Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Colin D. Christie, 2457 Dominion Ave., Norfolk 18, Va.  
 Mrs. James R. Cohen, 1122 Larchmont Crescent, Norfolk 8, Va.  
 Mrs. E. W. Covington, 117 Alleghany Rd., Hampton, Va.  
 Mrs. Harry K. Crosby, 5473 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, Va. 23455  
 Mrs. Edwin B. Forrest, 1058 Manchester Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.  
 Mrs. William Fulford, 1617 Arrowhead Point, Bayside, Virginia Beach, Va.  
 Mrs. E. A. Fussell, 1041 Ontario St., Chesapeake, Va.  
 Ronald Harris, 3592 N. Ingleside Drive, Norfolk, Va.  
 Mrs. T. B. Holland, 3414 Argoane Ave., Norfolk 9, Va.  
 Mrs. Guy Kirby, 212 Forrest Ave., Norfolk 5, Va.  
 Mrs. Rena W. Kizziar, 2704 Tidewater Dr., Norfolk 9, Va.  
 Anne L. Lee, M. D., 3505 White Chapel Road, Norfolk, Va.  
 Mrs. A. D. Mathews, 1444 Willow Wood Dr., Norfolk, Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Monola, 338 W. McGinnis Circle, River Forest Shores,  
 Norfolk, Va. 23502  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Munn, 106 Bounty Road, Baylake Pines,  
 Virginia Beach, Va.  
 Norfolk Botanical Garden, Airport Road, Norfolk 18, Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Overman, 2108 Oregon Ave., Portsmouth, Va.  
 Capt. H. R. Prince, 1621 Wakefield Dr., Virginia Beach, Va. 23455  
 Mrs. Charles F. Roberts, 226 Forrest Ave., Norfolk 5, Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Sealy, 4852 Kennebeck Ave., Norfolk 13, Va.  
 Mrs. Everett P. Seay, 1142 Shenstone Dr., Virginia Beach, Va.  
 Mrs. Mitchell Sparrow, Town, Country Garden Group, Onancock, Va.  
 Mr. Archie C. Stanton, 1434 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk, Va.  
 Mr. H. W. Stevens, 2919 Chesapeake Ave., Hampton, Va.  
 Mrs. Earl L. Sullivan, Miss Mary Sullivan, 1309 Arbor Rd., Chesapeake, Va.  
 Mrs. Ellen N. Templin, 2935 Victoria Ave., Norfolk, Va.  
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Thrasher, 703 Laurel Ave., Norfolk 19, Va.  
 Mrs. S. E. Turlington, P. O. Box 197, Melfa, Va.  
 Mrs. Frederick G. Ward and Sharon, 1908 Dayton St., Bayside,  
 Virginia Beach, Va. 23455  
 Mrs. Lillian M. Wentz, 1 Terrace Rd., Hampton, Va.  
 Mrs. Peter Zuidema, 2317 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk 9, Va.  
 Mrs. Peter Zuidema, 2317 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk, Va.

## Marydel Chapter

Mr. and Mrs. Warren F. Brooks, Deal Island, Md.  
 Mrs. Elton Bounds, Mardela Springs, Md.  
 Mrs. John M. Beecher, Rt. 1, Box 11, Clarksburg, Md.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Burklew, Rt. 1, Box 197, Preston, Md.  
 Mrs. Margaret L. Dabson, P. O. Box 45, Greensboro, Md.

Mrs. Joseph B. Davis, Box 133, Rock Hall, Md.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Glenn, South Main Street, Rock Hall, Md.  
 Mr. and Mrs. James F. Genn, Rt. 4, Salisbury, Md.  
 Mr. and Mrs. James F. Glenn, Rt. 4, Salisbury, Md.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hatcherson, Chestertown, Md.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Hillyer, Rock Hall, Md.  
 Miss Ruby C. Pannal, Rich Neck Farm, Cecil County, Earleville, Md.  
 Mrs. Lena Pollett, Princess Anna, Md.  
 Mrs. Henry Purdy, 107 Goldsboro St., Easton, Md.  
 Mrs. Millard Reed, 112 Naylor St., Salisbury, Md.  
 Mrs. Glen Schindler, Parsonburg, Md.  
 Mrs. N. Rowland Van Dexter, Rt. 1, Greensboro, Md.  
 Mrs. Ida Mae Walker, Mrs. John W. Jarman, 206 Oakley St., Cambridge, Md.

### Central West Virginia Chapter

Mrs. Geneva Ashwell, Rt. 1, Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Mrs. Charles L. Brown, Rt. 3, Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Burfield, 910 34th St., Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Miss Lydia Davidson, 603 33rd St., Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Orval W. Koon, 917 Main St., Wheeling, W. Va.  
 Mr. C. C. Liggett, 104 Smith St., Weirton, W. Va.  
 Mrs. J. R. McCracken, Rt. 2, Box 72, Walker, W. Va.  
 Mrs. Roberta McMullen, 2507 Broad St., Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Mr. Frank O. Meyers, 702 4th St., Williamstown, W. Va.  
 Mrs. Myron L. Null, 1012 17½ St., Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd C. O'Dell, 401 34th St., Vienna, W. Va.  
 Mrs. George Poling, 3919 11th Ave., Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Mrs. Mary C. Seckman, 216 Ryder Ave., Clarksburg, W. Va.  
 Mrs. J. L. Summers, Rt. 5, Box 215, Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Mrs. C. L. Watson, 1624 15th St., Parkersburg, W. Va.  
 Mrs. James Williams, Box 12, Colliers, W. Va.  
 Mrs. Donald E. Wineman, 605 33rd Street, Parkersburg, W. Va.

### Richmond Virginia Chapter

Alderman Library, Acquisition Div., University of Va., Charlottesville, Va.  
 Mrs. Jesse Wakefield Beams, Box 1882 University Sta., Charlottesville, Va.  
 Mrs. L. A. Callis, 2934 Clarendon Drive, Bon Air 35, Va.  
 Mrs. George Todd Colvard, 611 Greyson Ave., Richmond, Va.  
 Mrs. Gladys Dean, Glen Allen, Va.  
 Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Diggs, Rt. 1, Box 75, Trevilians, Va.  
 Mrs. W. B. Elwang, 208 Berkshire Road, Richmond 21, Va.  
 Mrs. Margaret B. Garrett, P. O. Box 614, Hopewell, Va.  
 Mrs. Arthur B. Gathright, Jr., Prospect Hill, Hanover, Va.  
 Mrs. W. B. Gilmer, Woodbourne, Box 428, Louisa, Va.

Maggie E. Johnson, Rt. 1, Box 86, Louisa, Va.  
Mrs. E. A. Lehmann, Amelia, Va.  
Mrs. Norman Pedigo, 8801 Brawner Dr., Richmond 29, Va.  
Mr. Charles B. Reynolds, 1233 Warren Ave., Richmond 29, Va.  
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Robinson, 112 North Thomas St., South Hill, Va.  
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Sledd, Mount Sterling Plantation, Providence Forge, Va.  
Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Williams, Jr., 364 Albemarle Ave., Richmond 26, Va.  
Mr. Harvey N. Wingfield, Jr., Rt. 1, Box 395, Glenallen, Va.

### **Mountaineer West Virginia Chapter**

Mrs. Sara M. Cammer, Rt. 1, Box 134, Fairmont, W. Va.  
Mrs. Annette Carr, Rt. 1, Box 239, Morgantown, W. Va.  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Berkley Davis, 1004 Bell Run Road, Fairmont, W. Va.  
Dr. Claude J. Davis, 733 Augusta Ave., Morgantown, W. Va. 26505  
Mrs. Thomas McCormick, 611 Louise Ave., Morgantown, W. Va.  
Miss Madge McDaniel, Box 212, Anmoore, W. Va.  
Mr. George Mullan, Shepherdstown, W. Va.  
Mrs. Ethel Reynolds, Davisville, W. Va.  
Mrs. Carl D. Sommerville, Rt. 1, Box 41-A, Bridgeport, W. Va.  
Mrs. A. C. Tarleton, 520 Prospect Place, Fairmont, W. Va.  
Mrs. Helen F. Van Fleet, 1229 Country Club Rd., Fairmont, W. Va.  
Mr. and Mrs. N. Birney Wright, P. O. Box 1025, Morgantown, W. Va.

### **NOTES**

It is requested that each Chapter Membership Chairman check his record against this and bring his record up to date. At frequent intervals reports will be sent to each Chapter giving information as to drop-outs and new members. It will be impossible for your Regional Membership Chairman to prove complete lists as has been requested by some of you in the past. If you desire a check of your members you may send along your list and I will attempt to verify and correct it but this should not be necessary if you will follow the plan of keeping these lists posted from information sent.

Other Chapter members might like to look at the last complete Membership List and compare it with this. You will find some 75 names missing from this one. These are mostly drop-outs and then you may want to ask why they are no longer with us. It is particularly distressing to find that some of those missing are those who have been with us a number of years and have been quite active.

Those Chapters that have a complete and active organization with emphasis on the Membership Chairman are those doing the most effective job of keeping members. May I urge each Chapter Chairman to make this a matter of priority business and send to me the name of the Chapter Membership Chairman.

Please check the above list and notify me immediately of any errors in the listing given. Your cooperation is solicited.

F. G. STEPHENSON  
Membership Chairman Region 4 AIS

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## OUR R. V. P. MESSAGE

Fellow Irisarians:

Well—another tall bearded iris season is history. So, too, are our Regional and National meetings. It was the good pleasure of Mrs. Browder and me to attend both. Iris people are such wonderful people it is a pity we cannot enjoy the companionship and fellowship that is such an important part of it all much more often.

I shall make no attempt to report on the many gardens. One observation will not hurt you, perhaps: Region 4 knows how to grow irises. Somehow it seems to me we get much better branching and coloration.

Others will no doubt report on the various gardens and perchance the Chicago Convention, so you will not be uninformed. Needless to say we were royally entertained everywhere and had a wonderful time.

You will be glad to know that our very capable Assistant R. V. P., Mrs. Frantz, was elected as R. V. P. As we are on a calendar year basis she will take office January 1, 1965. Actually she is even now doing much of the work, and has been since my stroke in January.

Seedlings are lined out and have started growing. Not too many seed pods set. Truth to be told I did not make too many crosses. It very often happened that when I felt like it it was raining, and when the sun shone I was indisposed or did not have proper bloom.

We remain at 4th place membership wise, though we have lost a few members. I regret this very much. Surely the best one Region in all the American Iris Society should also lead in membership. I suspect I'll bow out preaching that we fail in keeping our new members interested and busy. Certainly we do not run away from those things that really interest us.

Meanwhile I continue to stay tired. This is due, at least in part, I am sure, to the fact my Doctor has me on a rigid diet in an effort to reduce my weight. I do hope that eventually I will be able to return to a normal way of life, and am sure I shall.

I want to write stirring words of comfort and inspiration to you. Today I have the will but seem to lack the ability. Carry on! Carry on and I shall redouble my efforts and for our fall issue I promise—my best.

I will attend as many of our auctions as I can, though cannot promise to be with you for all of them. Surely you who are in good health will attend and enjoy them. Remember they are our only source of income.

I was no little surprised to learn that it takes about \$3.00 per year per member to bring you *Newscast*. So—patronize your auction!

Mrs. Browder joins me in thanking you for the many fine things you have brought to us.

Sincerely,

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

## THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Our Regional Convention at Silver Spring has come and gone and our garden visiting for the year is over. Now, we can turn our attention to slides, auctions, sales lists, and seeing that new rhizomes get a good start for next year. From all over the country the report has reached us: 1964 was a good season.

One reflection on the convention concerns the impossibility of ever hitting a date ideal for everyone. In the six gardens on Saturday's tour two in Silver Spring showed only 20-25 percent bloom; Mrs. Rhodes' garden in Takoma Park and Mr. Richmond's in Silver Spring were about 50 percent out; Acorn Hill about 75 percent; and Mrs. LaMar's garden in Cheverly at nearly full bloom. Since all of these gardens were within fifteen miles of each other the difference in stage of bloom was amazing. The two Sykesville and two Baltimore gardens we expected to be on Sunday's individual tour were cancelled at the request of the owners since too few iris were blooming to make a long trip worthwhile. Hence, Judge Quinn's garden in Bethesda was the principal one visited on Sunday, although some visitors also found their way to Mrs. Rettger's place in Jessups and Frank Bennett's garden in Laytonsville.

Several persons have inquired as to why the tour did not visit the College Park iris planting of Dr. Nearpass as announced in the April *Newscast*. This was a real tragedy. Dr. Nearpass had been raising his iris on rented land and the owner suddenly decided to build. This meant a real loss to the tour since Dr. Nearpass is the only real iris breeder in the chapter and the loss of his 5000 seedlings was irreplaceable. The garden used as a tour replacement was that of Mrs. Labash. One other loss to the Sunday tour was the garden of Mrs. Hutmire since Shirlee was so busy taking care of the garden of her ill mother, Mrs. Christine Rhodes, that she was unable to do much for her own.

These casualties due to the lateness of the bloom season and sheer bad luck did have one favorable effect: that of reducing the number of possible tour gardens from a wholly unmanageable total of fifteen or sixteen to about seven, a number which was easily accommodated in two days.

One regret was that a larger proportion of the new introductions were not in bloom. Many of these were one year plants which tended to bloom late anyway.

In view of all the iris we wish had been blooming that were not, the most appreciated single convention comment was that of Mr. Frank Sherrill of the Western North Carolina Chapter who stated that in 14 years of taking iris tours he had never seen so many iris at one time as on Saturday.

One chapter which has been doing a good job of both raising iris and conducting a full program is the Marydel Chapter on the Eastern Shore. Because of its geographical isolation these gardens draw far less than their justified quota of visitors from other chapters. Because of this we got up at 5 a.m. on May 18 and took a day of annual leave in order to visit the garden of Mrs. Esther Hillyer in Rock Hall.

We concluded that Mrs. Hillyer's excellent reputation as a flower grower is 100 percent justified. The garden, which occupies about an acre, was most impressive and would easily rank with the best half dozen gardens in Region 4. Against a background of oaks, hickories, pines, and cedars the Hillyers had built a raised perennial bed 12 feet wide which ran around three sides of the place. This was planted with a very wide variety of shrubs, ornamentals, flowers and small trees, very tastefully blended together. Inside this border were raised beds containing about 500 varieties of tall bearded iris. In some of the beds the TBs shared space with smaller plants which were planted in front of them. Thus medians, Siberians, spurias, reticulatas, Dutch, tectorum, and cristata varieties were growing with the dominant TBs. So also were bleeding heart, a number of peonies and daylilies, oriental poppies, garden heliotrope, flax, globe thistle, meadow sage, coral bells and other flowers.

Selecting standouts in an all-star cast is about as unsatisfactory in a garden as it is on the stage and we took four pages of notes without doing justice to many finely grown iris. Nevertheless, the following particularly caught our eye: Blue Baron; Arctic Flame; Buttercup Bower; Flyaway; Glamour Girl; Collegiate; Full Dress; Blue Throat; Harvest Splendor (a very floriferous light brown); La Rosita; a large violet self named Delightful, Brilliant Star, which was the largest red

bearded white I have ever seen; Jean Boyd, similar to Edenite but a trifle lighter; Moonchild, a low growing onco; On Stage, a fine orange; Golden Anniversary; Blue Mood, a huge two-tone blue; Little Dolly, a most attractive deeply pink median; Brazilia; Pretty Carol; Ala Loa; Torrid Zone; Blue Rim; Some Love, a real oldie but one of the oddest color combinations I have ever seen; Emerald Fountain; Apricot Lustre; Rainbow Gold; My Idaho, an odd color combination with light gray-brown standards and light violet falls; Court Ballet; Deep Devotion; Fairy Fable; Rusticana; and Mixed Emotions.

I also enjoyed Idaho Centennial, a variety with a very large bloom. Standards are light gold and falls white with a gold rim but a pink shading in the center. Unfortunately, both in this garden and mine this variety showed a tendency to lean over or even fall prostrate.

While at Rock Hall we also took time to see the gardens of Delma Glenn, Mrs. Robert Hatcherson, and Mrs. Robert Townsend, the first two of whom were not at home. All had some excellent iris. The extent to which this small community was iris-minded was most impressive as we passed at least two dozen places with blooming iris.

At Acorn Hill we were probably as fortunate as most growers; which is another way of saying that we enjoyed a fine season with large quantities of bloom and no particularly serious pests or diseases. Better than 90 percent of our iris bloomed with a bloom period lasting from April 18 to June 10, with peak bloom around May 18. The approximately 825 blooming varieties were really too many to keep track of. Hence, we have almost ceased trying to select the best in any color class. We had to cope with somewhat more than our usual low incidence of wet rot, enough borers to be a nuisance, very little leaf spot, one fatal case of scorch and about a dozen mild cases. Some of the greatest individual disappointments were Luxury Line and Green Quest which sat and sulked, and three or four, including Full Voltage, which committed suicide by raising all bloomstalks and no rhizomes. All Eternity, which was a standout last year, revealed a major weakness in substance. Result: a bloom stalk which is of unearthly beauty in the early morning may be very mediocre in the late afternoon if the day is hot or windy. One odd feature of the season was a considerable lightening in the colors of the blacks as compared to blooms by the

same variety during the two past years. Edenite in particular showed more red and less black than usual. Some of our own best performances were by Edenite, Tell's new Wild Peacock which we were guesting, Rococo, Wood Pigeon, Coffee Royal, Toll Gate, Rosy Veil, Fluted Haven, Ruby Lips, Chinquapin, Tres Bien, Leora Kay, Bravado, Black Swan, Kahilli, Nashborough, Garden Party, Orange Parade, Eliza K, Jan Hess, Indiglow, Dot and Dash, Henna Stitches, La Negraflor, Bell Ringer, Dreamspun, Siva Siva, Blackness, Licorice Stick, Amber Blush, Spanish Affair, Deep Space, Chances Are, Georgia Maeser, Gay Geisha, Court Ballet, Blue Baron, Blue Parasol, Giant Rose, Idaho Centennial, Son of Satan, Tam Lin, Apricot Dancer, Dark Fury, Donnybrook, French Flair, Mauve Mink, Lovely Diana, Celestial Snow, Superlation, Sultan's Music, and Golden Masterpiece.

For 1964 we attempted two experiments which may be of some interest to A. I. S. members. Each was intended to be a confirmatory testing of reports which had reached us regarding the virtues of SEA-BORN as a fertilizer, and those of Simazine as a weed killer.

The SEA-BORN testing is not yet complete. In March we fed SEA-BORN to nine of our fourteen beds by the method of light hoeing and later foliar spraying. The treatment was too brief to be conclusive but growth in the beds treated was somewhat better than those in which only the regular fertilizer was used.

The second experiment was taken over from Dr. Don Nearpass. In an earlier issue of *Newscast* he called attention to Simazine. I adopted it for 1964 and can truthfully say that it was not only thoroughly tested but that results were conclusive. A thin scattering by hand of the granular material at the rate of one cup per 600 square feet, following a preliminary weeding, gave sensational results. The iris were not visibly affected. Very few weeds came up and those that did were quite sick and unhappy. An apparent exception was some beds heavily mulched with leaf mold which sent up exuberant chickweed. But when we pulled this out by hand there was no return growth. Wild onions and Bermuda grass were not affected and had to be cleared out by hoeing. Otherwise, Simazine was at least 95 percent effective.

Despite this success we would suggest considerable caution in its use. Encouraged by our success with iris we tried it on roses, also with

excellent results. Then we made the mistake of trying it on strawberries and promptly had to start a new strawberry bed to replace the one Simazine had killed.

With this issue we are completing one year as Editor of *Newscast*. During that time there has been a noticeable increase in cooperation by the individual chapters with the result that for this issue we had more good material than we needed for a normal sized issue. Editing *Newscast* has involved a great deal of work but the work has been interesting. However, equal credit must go to Rena Frantz who has handled printing and distribution from Roanoke. Her work has been largely drudgery but it has made ours possible. If we had had to handle both editing and distribution, as was the case with Nannie Paquet and Richard Meagher, we would have had to toss in the sponge long before now.

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## THE REGION'S BUSINESS

by Donald W. Mitchell

Region 4's business was transacted this year at both the meeting of the Regional Officers and Chapter Chairmen on Friday night, May 15, and the banquet the following night. Each was held at the Sheraton Silver Spring Motor Inn with RVP Earl Browder presiding, aided by Assistant RVP Rena Frantz.

At the Friday meeting Mr. Browder made a short informal talk in which he noted the progress of the Region and expressed the hope that Region 4 might, in the near future, play host to a national A. I. S. meeting. There was some discussion of *Newscast*, auctions, and finances. Only one item of business required much time and this one was a discussion of the proposed By-Laws. These were adopted with some changes in language on an article-by-article vote with, however, the thought being expressed that some further changes and amendments would be undertaken later. Following this meeting all hands moved to a nearby room where a social hour was already underway.

The banquet on Saturday night was served buffet style. Mr. Ed Fowler, Chairman of the host C & P Chapter, made an address of welcome. The main business transacted was the election of new officers. Nominees had been chosen by a committee consisting of Mr. Claude O'Brien, Dr. Anne Lee, Mr. Bill Kelley, and Dr. Donald W. Mitchell. The report of the committee was accepted and the following were elected. Mrs. Rena Frantz of the Blue Ridge Chapter, who, as Assistant RVP, had been caring for much of the Region's business since the illness of Mr. Browder, was elected RVP. Her successor as Assistant RVP is Mr. Frank "Bud" Bennett, of the C & P Chapter, a young man new to the business of the Region but a veteran grower of iris and daylilies. The new Secretary is Roberta McMullen of the Central West Virginia Chapter. The Treasurer is Mr. Frank Sherrill of the Western North Carolina Chapter. Parliamentarian is Mrs. Craven B. Helms of the Eastern North Carolina Chapter. Mrs. Guy "Mickey" Kirby of the Norfolk Chapter was continued as Historian.

Following the election of officers Mr. Fred Stephenson read a short tribute to the iris which is reproduced elsewhere in this issue. Then the lights were turned out for the showing of iris slides by Mr. Ivan Richmond.

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### **THREE FUN-FILLED DAYS**

by Delma Glenn

I had long looked forward to attending a regional meeting. Hence, it was with eagerness that I started out on Friday morning, May 15, with Esther (Hillyer) and Viola (Davis), both from Rock Hall, Md. We left early in order to visit the National Arboretum in northeast D. C. before checking in at the Region 4 headquarters in Silver Spring that evening.

One could have spent all day at the Arboretum and been satisfied. Of great interest to me was the Fern Valley Trail, the thousands of azaleas covering the slopes on both sides of the roadway, and the Carleton Ball Herbarium located in the Administration Building. While en-

joying the breath-taking beauty of the azaleas on Azalea Road I had the pleasure of meeting two lovely ladies from Norfolk, Va., Mickey Kirby and Dr. Anne Lee, who were being chauffeured by Ivan Richmond on a sightseeing tour. Since I had wanted to meet these gals for quite some time, this was one of the highlights of my trip.

After registration at the Motor Inn and a most delicious meal in The Fire Fountain, we met for a "get acquainted" hour. Old friendships were renewed and many new ones were made, all because of my iris hobby. Two more Maryland members, Muriel Glenn and Virgie Reed, both from Salisbury, Md., joined us early that evening. From then until Sunday night there were five gals from this area having the time of their lives.

The weather was ideal and we were up early Saturday morning "raring to go." Six gardens were visited that day, each lovely and very different. There were many interesting things other than iris. My notes mention a large clump of Edenite with 16 bloom stalks at Dr. Don's as being an eye-catching point in his garden, also Lavender Frost (Sheaff '61), a ruffled, sparkling lavender with a bright red beard on a white blaze. Monee, Ruby Lips, Fluted Haven, and Pacific Thunder were also excellent.

In the Rhodes garden which we have visited on three successive years I was impressed with Radiant Gem, Opal Brown's '62 introduction that is a laced pink self with a smooth overlay of gold on the hafts; Ribbon Round (Tompkins '63), the most beautiful plicata seen anywhere, with perfectly branched stalks, extremely broad petals with a stitched edge of bright blue and a touch of the same blue at the tip of the thick creamy beard, Moongate (Sass '61); Dark Springtime (Schortman '59), a two-toned violet blue with a pale yellow beard; Lemon Bowl (Plough '62), a sulphur yellow self with the hafts and beard a lighter yellow; Glamor Gal, and Angel Lyrics ('62 and '63 introductions by Schmelzer); and both outstanding in every way and growing in exceptionally large clumps; and Winter Olympics, Opal Brown's heavily ruffled all white, were all excellent.

In another article you will find notes by Esther and myself on the La Mar and Richmond gardens. I am not supposed to be report-

ing on all of the gardens but I was so impressed with some of the iris and other interesting things that I simply can't resist mentioning them.

Nothing is more restful than to look into a garden filled with lovely trees in the heat of the day. That was the first thing I noticed about the Labash garden. Nestled at their base you saw azaleas, hems, and a nice collection of small plants. The iris were mostly in bud but the lovely azaleas were sufficient, and in particular one named *Magnificia*.

At the Fowler's Stone Lantern garden I spent most of my allotted time admiring the new Japanese garden where I had been attracted to the Japanese Lantern the previous year. We were too early for peak bloom but I made note of some of Chet Tompkins' introductions being displayed there. *Lute Song* and *Flagship* ('60), *Herald Angel* ('61), *Treasure Trail* ('62) a brilliant orange-copper with a self colored beard. Also from '62 were *Shadow Waltz*, *Remembered Melody*, *Cloud Nine*, and *Apple Cider*. 1963 introductions included *Bandwagon* which Tompkins describes as being a little more on the cherry red side than its parent, *Bridgadoon*.

After a most delicious buffet dinner on Saturday evening, followed by a business meeting and a colored iris slide program, we finished another memorable day. Margaret Bounds from Mardela Spring, Md., and her daughter, Louise, accompanied us on the tour as did Mrs. Anna Swen of Darlington, Md.

On Sunday we revisited the Richmond and Rhodes gardens and called on Judge Quinn of Bethesda, Maryland. Here iris are grown to perfection in every inch of space. Of his many whites I noted nice clumps of *Flutted Haven*, *Celestial Snow*, *Wedding Bouquet*, *Snow Goddess*, *Piety* and *Dreamy*. Other outstanding varieties were *Captain Gallant*, *Whole Cloth*, *Allegiance*, *Lady Rogers*, and *Blue Sapphire* (10 bloom stalks). Perhaps it is unfair to mention only so few of the many fine varieties, but how can one mention them all?

The better part of the afternoon was spent in the gardens at Mount Vernon, Virginia. Of special interest were the flower and kitchen gardens. The flower garden is eighteenth century dominated by box-

wood hedges planted in 1798, and the kitchen garden was restored within the original enclosing walls in a manner true to the time of George Washington.

Our three fun-filled days came to a close about 10 that night with five tired but happy people. My sincere thanks and appreciation to all who made our trip so wonderful. I'll never forget it if I live to be 100.

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## THE RICHMOND GARDEN

by Delma Glenn

The Richmond garden in Silver Spring, which was the first on tour, is meticulously maintained. The beautiful landscaping has a background of large trees, shrubs, camelias, and azaleas. Blooming magnificently near the front door was a large, deep pink azalea, George L. Taber. Other outstanding varieties were Glacier, Youth, and Iveryana. This is such a peaceful garden and everything is growing in perfect harmony. The iris were planted in five beds with about 25 clumps in each. In another week one could have enjoyed the newer introductions like Rainbow Gold, Ultrapoise, Rumbling Thunder, Jungle Fires, and Tegren Sea. The principal attraction in my opinion was Whole Cloth with 11 bloom stalks, 4 of which were blooming that day. There were also large clumps of Exotic Blue, Starshine, Violet Harmony, Ivory Works, Cathedral Bells, La Negraflor, Patience, Bravado, a lovely apricot seedling No. 49R-17, Fluted Haven, and Celestial Snow.

## THE RHODES GARDEN

by Ralph and Helen Lewis

Our most enjoyable assignment for the 1964 regional meeting was to "write up" the gorgeous Rhodes garden. Mrs. Rhodes and her daughter, Shirlee Hutmire, both of whom we have known through Region Four Robins, were a delight to meet for the first time.

If there are more beautiful iris gardens in existence we have yet to see them. The lot slopes upward and to the left from the street and offered a show of Iris and Azaleas that was breath-taking. The season was not yet at peak and there were many new varieties not yet open but the overall coverage was superb. We shall list just a few of the grand iris seen here: Congeniality and Toll Gate, two of Paul Cook's fine ones; Gaily Clad; Cliff Smith's beautiful white and gold Adorn; Bill Carter's seedling 63-4-G—he calls it a little Allegiance, we call it a fine iris; Glamour Gal living up to her name; the Nearpass seedling 9-61-6, a Whole Cloth type with extreme vigor, branching and floriferousness; Winter Olympics, a fabulous white; Chant, a fine deep red that was new to us; Black Charm a top ranking black, and Dark Fury another fine one in the same class; Ever and Ever a huge red violet, finely formed and very ruffled, that was superbly substantiated for so large an iris. We found Rose Hermosa very striking, liked Kissin' Kin—this red-bearded white was new to us. Rubelite was an excellent dark red. Gay Geisha is a real novelty with her pink standards and plum colored falls. A black new to us was the excellent Evening Jewel.

Confining our comments to newer varieties does not imply any lack of the old favorites. One of the great charms of this garden was that there was room enough for both. Star Shine was the first clump to catch our eye. Sierra Skies showed all the blueness and fine quality that caused me to twice give it my vote for the D. M. There were such a lot of fine ones in big healthy clumps.

A garden like this, with years of work, planning, and intelligent selection, is truly a tribute to the gardeners who created such a thing of beauty.

We must express our deep appreciation to our hosts. Nothing could have been better done, and the provision of bus transportation made the whole thing possible. The patient, and before long interested, drivers, the church group who gave us our luncheon, the Sheraton staff, and above all the local members who had labored long and effectively to produce one of the finest Regional Meetings that could be held—all did a wonderful job of making our visit a pleasure.

It is our opinion that meetings of this type and on an even more local level—city, state, or state subdivision—are the real heart of our iris program. Too small a portion of our membership can afford time, money, and effort for regular attendance at the National meetings. To all of you who were responsible, our sincere thanks and a resounding “well done!”

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## STONE LANTERN GARDEN

by Lloyd Zurbrigg  
(The Fowlers)

Wide paths and spaciousness made this an ideal garden for an iris tour. A new little Japanese garden added color and interest and called forth all cameras. In it were clumps of iris tectorum, including one of the rather rare tectorum alba. Elsewhere in the main garden were more clumps of tectorum and its hybrid, Paltec.

The lateness of the season could not be disguised, for there were still some late blooms on the standard dwarfs, Balroudour being one. Only the early tallers were out, many of them daughters of Snow Flurry. Thus the two good whites from the late Jack Linse, Dreamy and Cascadian, the former seeming the purer white. Blue Crest displayed its effective though not really blue beard, a clean and pleasing flower with just enough ruffling. Here its stalks were holding up well. Two more descendants that will continue to be hard to displace were Violet Harmony and Desert Song.

Happy Birthday was upholding the iris reputation for pink, while Rocket, set against an expanse of green lawn, put on a vivid show. Real Gold was very prolific, something unusual in an oncobred in these parts. Though neither tall nor gold it attracted much attention, and this reviewer only wishes that it had had a different name. Chartreuse Dream and Gay Dancer were two novelties that did not quite appeal to this writer.

The Stone Lantern Garden featured the introductions of Chet Tompkins, but the majority of these were, of course, still in bud. Two of the plicatas were open. Crown Point is perhaps a little too heavy in pattern for some tastes, though not this writer's. Roulette is a very showy violet on white and the only question here was whether the stems could continue to support such a show. The famous Ribbon Round which all taking the tour had hoped to see was not out. A real color break was evident in Apple Cider, an odd smoky rose with tailored form, perhaps a trifle long in the falls. This one bears returning to. Treasure Trail is a brilliant orangy-tan; with only the first bloom out it was showing well. Lute Song, a smooth peachy pink was very lovely. Stampede was much quieter and smoother than the name might suggest, being a smooth blend in a deep brown-red, including hafts and beard.

One seedling of special note in this garden was 1030-OGV. It is a white with very prominent huge red beard. The standards were not tight but touching, mostly. It seemed worth growing for the beard alone!

Gladly would the tour have stayed here an extra few days to enjoy the promise of those unopened buds.

## THE LABASH GARDEN

by F. G. Stephenson

In touring the gardens in the Silver Spring area we found a seemingly growing trend toward sharing the iris with other plants. This trend is quite evident in the garden of Mrs. T. N. Labash. As the bus rolled up in front of the "Connie" Labash home we were greeted with a dazzling display of color. Situated on a one and one-half acre lot in an area abounding in trees this home gave the impression it and the flowers were an integral part of each other.

Particularly impressive were the great variety of Azaleas including a number of the newer hybrids. Holding second place to these were the Rhododendrons presenting a display of colors not too common. As one looked a bit closer he was to see a number of his flower friends such as tree peonies, dogwood, trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, poppies, tulips, coral bells, and others that were not readily recognizable to this member. One new annual that I had not seen was Gazania. This was most attractive to others on the tour.

Connie grows about 300 varieties of the tall bearded iris as well as quite a few dwarfs. It was noted that a number of the iris were the better ones of a few years ago but quite a few of the newer ones were given places of honor in her plantings. Unfortunately the bloom season did not coincide with our visit and few were blooming here but it was quite evident that the iris is the favorite here and that it is extremely well grown. Plantings on either side of the long graceful driveway and along the walkway allows maximum display of individual plants with little effort on the part of the visitor.

It is understood that Connie is conducting experiments in using anti-biotics in the soil to combat rot. This would have provided a most interesting report but the short duration of this visit precluded the discussion of her findings.

The generous nature of this hostess was emphasized by her providing her guests with plants of a lovely dwarf ground cover and other plants admired by those in the group.

On this tour the comment most frequently heard was that the "nicest people" are those who grow flowers. Certainly, as a hostess, Connie would be classed as one of the "nicest people" and her love of flowers and people is embodied in the balancing of flower against flower making the Labash garden one of outstanding beauty and effectiveness not for the grower alone but for the many neighbors who may share this beauty as they pass this home day by day.

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## ACORN HILL IRIS GARDEN

by Anne L. Lee

This garden is located quite a good distance from Silver Spring, and as you ride through the countryside, you come quite abruptly upon the quarter-acre of iris grown by Dr. Mitchell. The iris are grown in rectangular beds and arranged that commercial use can be made of the planting, so plant material is grouped that people can pick and choose by the front price tag of the bed.

Dr. Mitchell has used Seaborn on 9 beds out of 14, but I do not know how the plants for this experiment were selected or if soil analysis was made before and after.

Dr. Mitchell also was quite impressed with an experiment he carried out with the weed killer, Simesan.

About 1,000 varieties are grown here, mostly tall bearded, but quite a number of species iris and daylilies, Siberian, spurias, Japanese and Louisiana iris. Dr. Mitchell has a good collection of C. G. White oncobreds, although most of these had finished blooming. Also, he has a number of the horned-spooned-flounced varieties that were interesting.

It is hard to describe the best things seen in this garden. To my personal taste there was a clump of Melodrama with about a dozen bloomstalks that would have to stop anyone. Azurite made a good showing, as did Bronze Bell, a lovely clump of Dot and Dash, and Real Delight. Fona was a lovely new pink.

There was a rather attractive green one, Green Chance. Wood-pigeon, an iris not seen too often, also drew my attention.

Two sides of the area are surrounded by high hedges that serve as a windbreak as well as provide an attractive backdrop.

The sun was rather hot, and a punchbowl under the shade of an old tree was a welcome refresher for the visitors.

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## THE LA MAR GARDEN

by Esther Hillyer

This lovely garden is situated on a corner lot with guest iris and many interesting seedlings planted in one bed, exceptionally well grown roses in another bed, and many fine clumps of older iris in a third bed.

Mrs. LaMar is growing some fine rose colored and pink seedlings. The most outstanding was pink No. 62-2. This lovely rich pink with a tangerine beard, well branched, and with good substance.

We saw fine clumps of New Snow, Jane Phillips, The Admiral, Sunny Ruffles, Snow Flurry, and Starshine. The guest bed contained beautifully grown specimens of Utah Valley, Orange Parade, Symphony, Tollgate, Wonderful White, Indiglow, Brass Accents, and Allegiance. Here also was a fine stalk of Tegren Sea, a 1963 introduction of Mrs. Frances Brown of Roanoke. This was a beautiful cool crisp white flower with a brushing of cool green at the hafts.

Mrs. LaMar is growing between 300 and 400 TBs including all Dykes Medal winners and nearly all on the Popularity Poll. The rose garden had blooming such beauties as Confidence, Lowell Thomas, Picture, Crimson Glory, Blanche Mallerin, Yul Brynner, Circus, and Sweet-heart.

## BENNETT GARDEN

by James M. Aultz

The garden of Frank ("Bud") Bennett, at Laytonsville, Maryland, is beautifully planned. Those attending the Region IV meeting who did not see this one, listed as "optional" by the planning committee for the garden tours, missed a delightful experience. Five visiting West Virginians made the short drive from Silver Spring, early on Sunday morning, to see and talk again with the personable young man who will be Region IV's next Assistant R. V. P. "Bud" was on hand to extend warm greetings even at that chilly pre-breakfast hour; his attractive wife joined us almost immediately.

Noticing a sand-box behind the house, the temptation for a bit of teasing of our youthful-looking host was irresistible. When asked if this belonged to him, he good-naturedly assured us that his two young sons played there, not he.

The warm temperatures, clear and sunny skies which had prevailed on Friday and Saturday were not typical of "iris weather", at other times and on other occasions, as any old-timer at annual meetings of Iris lovers knows only too well. The first rain experienced in Maryland began to fall almost immediately after our arrival in the Bennett garden. A little bit of moisture was never known to stop any determined garden tourists, however. Nor did it deter the enthusiastic Mountaineers.

Although we had met him for the first time only the night before, at the social hour (which was a prelude to the garden tours planned for Saturday) Frank impressed us as the sort of gardener who would never let out-of-state visitors see his garden in less than perfect condition, if it could possibly be kept otherwise. So, to find everything in "apple-pie" order, in the Bennett garden, was no surprise, although it did afford added pleasure to his visitors.

Frank's garden is a relatively new one, started when his old place proved too small for him to develop it according to his wishes. In '63, there had been little bloom due to the extremely bad weather conditions which prevailed over much of Maryland that year. Although few Irises were in bloom at the time of our visit in May 1964, all plants were in

excellent condition. "Bud" believes this is because he has the best natural soil in Montgomery County, which may be true. His plants have been sprayed only once this season, with Saigon, two weeks before bloom-time. The foliage on all shrubs, trees, and Irises was notably healthy—a rich dark green in color.

Only those Irises are grown here which please their owner, personally. Quite sensibly, his selections are made without regard to the year in which a particular variety was introduced. Kiss Me Kate was larger, here, than elsewhere; Garden Gold more beautiful. Violet Grace is an Iris name which discriminating growers should not over-look. In our judgement, Texas Way is a superior purple Iris.

The borders in the Bennett garden are attractively free-formed, edged with cobblestone from historic old Georgetown. Stone dust makes a fine surface upon which to walk, in the back paths. A woodchip mulch keeps the ground all around the plants looking neat and weed free.

Expertly-chosen evergreen shrubs and ornamental trees, including Yew and Japanese Holly, have been set at the back of the extensive borders, which are twelve to fourteen feet deep. Hence, the Bennett garden will never appear crowded as the background planting grows with the years.

Other carefully-selected perennials, which "Bud" likes to use in with his Irises, are placed so as to complement our favorite flower mose effectively, rather than in hit-or-miss fashion, as so many of us are inclined to do. Some of the plants so-used were familiar; others were not. Our host, with unfailing courtesy and great patience, answered our many questions about such things as attracted our attention. *Salvia prianthus* (a rose pink variety), Sun-Drop, Flax, Basket-of-Gold Alyssum, Turf Lily, Iceland Poppy, Leopard's Bane, and Coral Bells are but a few of the plants used. Frank's appreciation of what white flowers and blooming shrubs can add to a garden was readily apparent. Five big clumps of white Candytuft were almost the first things one saw upon entering the garden. A dwarf form of the blooming shrub, Deutzia, lent another note of white to the general planting.

The hands on our watches moved all too quickly. We had a long way to go, back to our West Virginia hills. The "road" was calling

us home. Pleasant memories of the half-acre Bennett garden will long remain with us. At some future May-time, when the Irises are in full bloom—the other planting at its mature best—we hope to return once more to the company of our pleasant young host and hostess and to this beautiful garden in Maryland.

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## “CHICAGO TIME”

by Anne L. Lee

I am sure many varietal comments will be made about all the iris seen in Chicago. I would like to give my overall impression of this meeting.

The rage is orange, first, and pastels, second. The most talked about and most admired iris were Prairie Blaze, Orange Chariot, and Orville Fay's Radiant Light, to be introduced next year. Radiant Light is beautifully branched and has a multitude of blossoms. Prairie Blaze is a lovely orange, ruffled, most appealing iris, but bunched, and my impression was that the plant was not too good a grower. Fay's orange seedlings seemed to attract a lot of comments, also, his Tropic Isle, a beautiful pastel orchid, ruffled and fluted, a real charmer. I loved also the descendants of Rippling Waters, Morning Breeze and Champagne Music. Beautiful, too, was Cliff Benson's Skywatch, a flaring, stately, light orchid, and Arctic Fury, a lovely white.

A few things were brought home to me forcefully. The most attractive gardens were those that grew iris in combination with other plant materials, a variety of perennials as well as evergreen backgrounds. The practice of growing iris in beds like vegetables has been adhered to too rigidly. They may be easier to handle this way, but a single clump of Royal Fanfare in front of a dark evergreen convinced me there will be some changes made in my garden. A clump of pale pink Oriental Poppies just set off a clump of pale blue Eleanor's Pride. A great many unusual perennials were grown with iris—several varieties of lychnis, canterbury bells, and a gigantic strain of coral bells, with tall stems about 40", bright pink double flowers. Allium seemed to combine well and was seen in several gardens.

Another worthwhile observation was that small statuary, particularly trickling fountains, were seen in several gardens, and this adds immeasurably to the landscape. Statuary really does not have to be reserved for the estate gardens but care must be taken to choose the right piece.

The buses which took us from place to place were well organized, and the guides the nicest people. The joy of the Convention, at least to me, was the opportunity to meet the people behind the iris I love. It was a treat to meet the greats of Irisdom, such as David Hall, Henry Sass, Roy Brizendine, Brother Charles, Helen Graham—the creator of Tea Apron—Orville Fay, Cliff Benson, Steve Moldovan, and many more. I do not think I will forget the speech of Mr. Randall, delivered with his inimitable English wit, and the kind words he had to say about us. The evening program brought forth the need for all irisarians to try to grow iris other than TB's. Interesting facts were brought out how the crossing of Progenitor, Paul Cook's creation, was achieved and finally led to the break of Whole Cloth and its descendents.

There was but one flaw in the Convention—the iris show that I had anticipated to be Chicago style was quite a letdown.

I was sorry when I saw the sun rise over Lake Michigan for the last time and knew it was time to return home . . . but I will long remember "Chicago Time".

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## THE IRIS

One of the most admirable flowers which grows is the iris. Approaching it, the writer confesses a tendency to timidity—a feeling of reticence in the presence of such dignity, for dignity is the message of its heart. One would no more go near it with familiarity than he would rush into the presence of the President of the United States with a "Hi Pal" on his lips.

Standing in its stately splendor, the iris seems to typify some bejeweled dowager looking down her nose through her lorgnette at the lesser lights about her or else some pompous squire with sideburns. Are you thinking, "How silly thus to describe so beautiful a flower?"

One hastens to explain no offense is meant. Never would one be guilty of disparaging the incomparable iris. It is simply to say that in its dignity the iris seems to stand alone.

If other flowers could speak, particularly the smaller ones that are sometimes grouped in flower arrangements with the iris they would probably confess that they do not feel quite comfortable and that the certain homey feeling of familiarity is absent from the group. Not that the iris did anything to cause such sentiment. Oh, no! It is far above snobbishness or pretense in any form. Its quiet, innate dignity unconsciously created such feeling.

Again, if the iris could speak, one ventures the opinion it would say it did not enjoy being made into a corsage. It might confess to a hurt pride when its staunch stem and its stately leaves were cut from it, as though it felt undressed and thus bereft of its dignity.

It calls to mind Vashti. Do you remember her? One could almost wish the iris were named for her.

Vashti passed on and off the stage of Bible history in one short chapter. Her story is recounted quickly and briefly in order to reach the heroine of the story, Esther. However, she left an indelible impress on every thinking heart.

Vashti was the queen, the wife of King Ahasuerus, the ruler of Media and Persia. She was beautiful and fair to look upon.

In the third year of his reign, Ahasuerus made a feast for all the princes and noblemen of his provinces. When it had continued seven days and had become a drunken debauch, he decided to bring the queen before his guests that her beauty might be paraded before them and made sport of.

Vashti refused to obey the command of her lord and master, knowing full well the consequence of her disobedience—the loss of her position as queen. She preferred to lose her exalted place in the kingdom rather than forfeit her dignity and self-respect.

Though the iris cannot speak for itself and is sometimes arranged beneath its dignity, even in such a position its message to the world is self-evident.

From "Voiceless 'Lips" by Nell Warren Outlaw.

## NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY MEETING FOR 1964

by Ralph and Helen Lewis

The regular spring meeting of the N.C.I.S. was held in the High Point-Greensboro area Saturday, May 9th. Registration was at the Parhams' Triangle Lake Iris Gardens, starting at 8:00 a.m. Don and Marge have a beautiful garden, level at the front of the house and dipping sharply as one goes toward the back. As usual Don's Azaleas did their best to steal part of the show—and succeeded. I always remember well-grown whites here: Snow Goddess, Fluted Haven, Swan Ballet, etc. Two Terrell seedlings, 57-56 a nice pale blue, and 58-14 a big bold deep violet flower with self beard, were beautiful.

From here the trek led to Mary Nifong's garden at Kernersville. As was the case generally, many that we wanted to see were not yet in bloom, but the display of bloom was really excellent. High Note was a fine shell pink that we did not know before, Bronze Armor a superb brown, Royal Canadian and Pacific Panorama, two really fine dark blues. White Foam, Kindly Sky, Cashmere, and many other beautiful irises were on display.

The picnic luncheon was at Mrs. Paquet's, just out of Greensboro. Nannie not only grows fine iris, but has space to display them beautifully. Her garden was excellent. Among her many varieties were Shadow Waltz, Butterscotch Kiss, her own Changing World, an exquisite pale pink (we call it a pink Rehobeth), Harold Alexander's beautiful violet Delightful, Dot and Dash, Royal Image, Silken Sails, and so many others.

The business meeting was held with approximately 90 present, then on to the afternoon visits.

John Wilson's garden was just starting to bloom but there were three big gorgeous clumps, Cashmere, Black Swan, and Esther Fay, giving a real show. If one is to have three representatives, where could you find better?

The C. C. O'Brien garden was, as usual, a true show piece, with fine standard varieties and excellent seedlings on a sloping lot that dis-

plays them to the very best advantage. Whole Cloth loves this garden and has put on some dazzling displays. Naomi has a white seedling that will figure in our varietal comments.

Next to Frances Johnston's garden near Jamestown. Bloom here is traditionally late but, as so often is the case, in this queer season, Frances had more bloom than many of us. Whole Cloth, Melodrama, Snow Orchid, with white standards and violet fall, Pink Torch, Blackness, Bon Bon Haven, an exquisite pink, Utah Cream, and many others were in bloom for us. Frances grows Siberians and Spurias beautifully and a visit to her garden should persuade more of us to grow them. We, ourselves, are converts and are growing more and more of them. By the way, the Siberians "peaked" this year right along with the tall bearded varieties, and they usually come later.

And so home, weary, full of enthusiasm for our hobby, and conscious that on such a tour one just can not take in all the beauty seen nor all the wise counsel given. Let us end by again saying that the nicest thing about the iris hobby is the grand group of people engaged in it.

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## NORFOLK TOUR

by Mickey Kirby, Publicity Chairman

Fifty six Norfolk Chapter members and guests enjoyed a conducted tour of local Iris gardens on May 9.

While late arrivals registered, do-nuts and coffee were served in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Weldon W. Ballard, Chesapeake, Va. Each registrant received an envelope with name badge, vicinity map, route sheet, ball point pen from "Ballard Flowers", a package of McKanna's Giant Columbine Seed, courtesy of Geo. Tait & Sons—even two aspirin tablets, courtesy of Dr. Anne Lee!

Mrs. Rena Kizziar had prepared a souvenir booklet with short description of each garden on tour and listing new varieties to be viewed there. A painting of a late variety of Iris appeared on the green covers,

each one different. Rena not only grows fine Iris, she paints pretty Iris, too!

After viewing the extensive plantings of the Ballards, the cavalcade, led by Tour Co-ordinator, Ronald Harris, proceeded to the garden of Mrs. Fred G. and Miss Sharon Ward, Virginia Beach. Light Up, Granada, Spice Island and Spanish Affair were growing beautifully here as well as an up to date well planned Dykes Bed.

Next stop was the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Munn, always a delight to behold. Delia not only grows the latest varieties of Iris but many new and unusual plants. Late Azaleas and perennials made Arctic Fury, Fancy Frosting, French Lace, Ribbon Round and Twilight Zone—to name only a few—even more enticing.

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon was held at Shore Drive Inn. The tables were beautifully decorated with White Iris arrangements, made by Delia Munn. A tall thin decorative bottle at each end of the speaker's table displayed a perfect stalk of Fluted Haven. After introduction of the out of town guests and Welcome by Dr. Anne Lee, the Invocation was given by Ronald Harris.

After luncheon, Mrs. Fred G. Ward read a comprehensive history of Norfolk Chapter revealing steady growth within the framework of American Iris Society. We had been promised ONE Iris Rhizome as a door prize but Delia Munn surprised us with many up to date varieties that provided an exciting climax to the luncheon.

First stop after luncheon, was the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Upshur Wilson where all were happy to see Sing Along, In Orbit, Raspberry Whirl, Blue Baron and many others expertly grown.

Rena Kizziar's garden boasts nearly every kind of Iris known along with roses, peonies, daylilies and perennials in abundance. Cross Country, Blue Ballard, White Pride, Royal Fanfare and far too many to mention were blooming in profusion.

Dr. Anne Lee's garden is a jewel, well planned, landscaped and carefully tended. She is an Horticulturist first and an Irisarian second, so many interesting plants abound in her small garden complete with tiny pool.

Those who made it to Mickey Kirby's garden quietly collapsed, here and there, but looked with interest at colorful plantings of late azaleas and dogwoods along with the ever present Iris. Fluted Haven and new Leo Haven dominated the Havens grown here along with many noteworthy varieties, most of which already seen in earlier gardens.

As a Regional Fund Raising Project, each garden visited offered two or more late varieties at 25c a chance. This was fun and profitable and many went home happy with their winnings.

Out of town Irisarians attended the tour from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia.

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## AN IRIS SEASON IN REVIEW

by Joseph J. Ghio

As I sit down to write this, a few blooms remain in the garden. I'm dittoing this review this year so that I can do a better job and share my reactions with all my friends. I hope you will respond by sharing with me those iris which you approved of this season. Incidentally, I apologize for my errors in advance since I'm preparing this without the benefit of a rough draft.

**WHITES:** This is a "color" class which shows more "class" than any other. Iris in this color class are nearer perfection than any other.

**WINTER OLYMPICS,** after hearing so much about this iris last year, one develops a certain expectation of it; perhaps too high an expectation. At any rate, it was seen growing in several gardens, and it was outstanding, incorporating all the qualities one wants in an iris, though the purist might complain about the few veins in the falls.

**WHITE PRIDE,** was another iris which received rave notices last year. It, too, is a huge, very ruffled pure white. A vigorous grower which seems to tend toward blooming too heavily.

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Mr. Ghio is one of the newer hybridizers in California and has introduced a number of varieties including several we guested in this year's Region 4 Convention.

CELESTIAL SNOW is still an excellent iris with its pure coloring, ruffling, and fine branching; it is not the best grower, but still would make an excellent Dykes choice.

COOL FLAME is the best white with a red beard to date. It's main detractor is its slow growth.

POET'S DREAM shows where Winter Olympics got its fine qualities. FLUTED HAVEN is among the first to bloom and continues to bloom nearly to the end of the season. PIETY is a nice white not unlike its parent Snow Goddess.

BLUES: A color class closely related to whites also shows much improvement, though the really true blue seems far distant even at this late date.

ELLEN MANOR is an iris which I had heard nothing about and was the biggest surprise of the season; it was perhaps the best new iris growing in my garden this year. A heavily substantiated, fluted, nicely branched light blue with a strong turquoise cast. A first year plant produced three bloom stalks.

ALPINE BLUE, continues to be as fine an iris as I remember. It is a light blue which is a great improvement over its parent, Salem.

HIGH ABOVE, a tremendous iris! Might be classed as a blue-white, but that is immaterial. The fine branched, huge, broad flowers are near perfection. This iris received my "Ghio Medal" and has every quality which a Dykes winner should have.

PACIFIC PANORAMA, is a beautiful expansive medium blue with the branching, buds per socket, form and all other qualities which should make this iris a strong Dykes contender this year. Other fine iris which should be strong contenders include the beautiful lustrous dark blue, ALLEGIANCE, ROCOCO, and CELESTIAL SNOW.

The Blue Class has many representatives. INTRIGUER has and still is one of my favorites. BRAVE VIKING and HELEN KELLER are two medium to light blues with the typical personality which is characteristic of Hinkle iris. WENATCHEE SKIES is a very true blue, but seems light on the substance side. MUSIC MAKER is another iris which was widely talked about, and had the same problem to overcome as Winter

OLYMPICS. WO did a better job of living up to its advance billing than did MUSIC MAKER. TRITON was as huge and imposing this year as it was last; if it has a fault, it would be that it is too large.

BLACK—This class has come a long way since the advent of BLACK FOREST and SABLE. There are many fine representatives of these two famous progenitors.

LICORICE STICK, probably the leader of the class. LS is a sleek lustrous blue-black which is distinctive and noticeable from afar. A fine grower and tall—an unusual quality in this class.

EDENITE, not new, but still a favorite. This iris can look like a sooty red-black or a glowing ember-red, depending on how the sun strikes it. BLACK ROSE is a new edition to this class. Has all of the characteristics of EDENITE, but with better form. It has an interesting white area about the dark beard.

ECSTATIC NIGHT is a fine edition from the late Paul Cook; width and deep color finish this beauty. BLACK SWAN continues to be a fine red-black. DARK SPLENDOR has fine form color and form, but is on the short side. DARK FURY on the other hand, has height, form, branching, though looks short on substance. ROYAL CANADIAN is not really black, but has fine form and dark, dark blue coloring.

PINK, another class which has undergone great improvement in recent years. The Fay, Hall, and Muhlstein lines are the most prominent ones in this class.

ESTHER FAY, is undoubtedly the leader of this class. Size, form, color, branching all combine in EF to make it an iris which will be with us a long time. COURT BALLET from the breeding as Esther Fay is also very nice, but doesn't quite come up to the standard of EF.

FAIRY FABLE, though introduced by Ernst, comes from all Hall breeding, MAY HALL X LYNN HALL, and is the best from this time-honored line.

LUZON CROSBY is a creamy peach with unusual form; the huge ruffled standards open and flare outward while the broad falls semi-flare. This form is unique, and appeals to me. Another fine iris which will be with us for a long time.

PINK 'N' PRETTY is a light pink with deeper shoulders; very fine form and very nice. LILTING MELODY is a nicely proportioned light to medium pink with light lacing. FLAMING HEART is very vigorous producing several bloomstalks in one year. It is a bright pink with much rose to its make-up; this year the flowers seemed on the small side. CASHMERE has its good and bad years; this year was its good year—wish it would always perform as it did this year. COMPLIMENT is an unusual iris in the class of LOVELY DIANA—a pink orchid blend with overtones of wine.

TANGERINE derivatives, for lack of a better name—these are the many new iris which stem from the original pink breeding.

ORANGE seems to be the modern rage with many introductions aiming to this color and many more on the way. PAMPANO PEACH was one of those surprises. PP is ruffled, branched with good form of a peach-orange coloring—very nice. MISSION SUNSET has an interesting color—greenish orange-apricot, but I wish the falls would flare rather than tuck. This was also a good year for ORANGE PARADE; CELESTIAL GLORY still remains my pick of this somewhat limited class. I was not a CHINESE CORAL fan until this year. It was just great in my garden; huge, nicely formed flowers of an unusual begonia-pink-orange coloring. I suppose the whole of the iris world are looking forward to the offspring of this and PRAIRIE BLAZE. ORANGE CHARIOT and RADIANT LIGHT claim Fay as a father and CC and PB as parents. Examined ORANGE CRUSH again this spring and still believe it is as orange as any, though it lacks the form of these newer iris.

CHRISTY ANNE is a bright blend of pink, white, and orange with fine branching and rebranching. SEPTEMBER SONG is still a lush apricot peach tone with conventional open standard form. DAWN CREST is as luscious as ever and I found that I favored DAWN STAR very much this year. MAUVE MAGIC was a surprise also. This is a mauve orchid color with waxy substance and much lacing. The flowers are carried on perfectly branched 36-inch stalks. RASPBERRY WHIRL is somewhat of the same coloring. Glenn Corlew's 101-2A and 185-2A will be introduced next year and will surely make their mark.

RIPPLING WATERS—Tremendous! There is no better word to describe this iris. Perfect form, widely-branched, lightly laced and ruffled, appealing—an iris which is sure to go all the way and undoubtedly go all the way to the Dykes as soon as it is eligible. This and High Above were the two iris which received my "Ghio Medal" as two of the very best iris. Both are worthy of the Dykes and both should receive it in due course. MORNING BREEZE, another from the same line as RW, but not up to the high standard of the former. The standards are a definite shade of blue-orchid and the falls are nearly white. In one year plantings this year, it showed no tendency to branch.

In the same color tone are the lavenders from blue breeding rather than pink as in the case of RIPPLING WATERS. MARIE PHILLIPS was the standout here. Smooth light lavender coloring, white beard, semi-flaring form, and nearly tailored form combine to make this a perfectly unforgettable iris. Another pet was STERLING SILVER. Nearly won a "Ghio Medal," but the iris must grow and bloom two years before it becomes eligible for this award! At any rate, SS is broad, expansive, fluted ruffled, rippled, bubbling, pleated, etc., etc., lavender-violet. A one year plant produced three bloom stalks and three increases. The stalks are perfectly branched and multi-budded. TAM LIN is in the same class as the former two, but doesn't quite have the class of MP and SS. EVER and EVER was a favorite of mine since I first saw it three years ago; it still is a beautiful thing with its huge orchid coloring and light lacing. Gaulter's future introduction, JILL, is a fine formed deep wine-orchid with a burnt-red beard.

YELLOW, another class which has made great advances in recent years. MOON RIVER, another near winner of the "Ghio Medal," was tremendous this first year. The flowers are huge, substanced, ruffled, and carried on tall stalks which seem to bloom forever. One stalk was still blooming six weeks after the first blooms opened!

DENVER MINT is undoubtedly Maynard's best creation to date. The huge flowers have such a smooth butter-yellow color which looks really good enough to eat. Very vigorous and produces several increases in one year.

TOP DOLLAR is a brilliant yellow-orange which produces several stalks in one year. CURLS OF GOLD is also very brilliant and produced

a huge 50-inch stalk with lovely golden-yellow flowers with curled edges on the falls. CRAFTSMAN is a huge golden-orange and white iris. NOB HILL is still quite spectacular with its huge butter-yellow flowers with a touch of brown at the hafts. FLUTED GLORY is a very ruffled golden-yellow which may fade a bit in the sun. GREEN QUEST is a very broad and nice greenish-yellow with many buds per socket; a vigorous grower which also bloomed in the fall for me. COLOR DESIGN is a huge ivory green which has been a great parent to me. BEAUTY QUEEN is a huge ivory with pleating. GRINGO is an interesting blend of cream, green, and violet. The bloom is huge, and it often produces a clump in one year as we saw at the Regional where a one year planting had 8 stalks which enabled it to win the Rees Cup.

PLICATAS, another class which has made great advances in recent years. ROCOCO performed to perfection this year which was probably due to our cool weather. The perfectly branched stalks sport huge white grounded edged blue flowers. If it would be a consistent performer, it would be a perfect Dykes choice.

WILD GINGER marks the culmination of the Gibson line begun with Tahola. The perfectly formed waved blossoms are a soft ginger-brown color brushed over a white ground. A triumph! Personally, I prefer the dual-toned SIVA-SIVA. The amber standards and white falls edged red-brown mark this as a very different and a very nice iris. CAYENNE CAPERS is a really hot thing! The flowers are huge and a fiery color with a white ground showing through. This iris blooms in the fall dependably and produces several stalks in the spring as well.

GOLDEN SPICE is still a favorite of mine, and I consider it the best of the non-Gibson "hot" plic. It's a golden yellow edged and sanded brown. Keith Keppel's butterscotch standard and violet falled MARICOPA is a very unique iris which you either like or don't. TEA APRON could almost be called a white with a blue heart with plic sandings in the haft area. BLUE DESIGN is very similar to TA and equally good.

RED, here is a class which could stand much improvement. TOMECO seemed to be the best representative of this class. The color

is very smooth and seems to approach red from the orange side. The form is good, but I wonder about the substance.

MAIN EVENT is huge, broad, ruffled red with much magenta in its make-up. ME has much Snow Flurry in its make-up which shows up in this fine iris. Another of my personal favorites. GYPSY JEWELS is another very smooth iris which is not unlike Tomeco in many respects.

MARTEL is a difficult iris to place, but I just think the blend of colors, magenta, brown, and red, here with a gold beard make this a splendid thing. Craig's CORDIAL is something similar to Martel and also very nice. 'TIS TOPS is a very smooth blend of lilac, brown and magenta which has appealed to me for some time.

BROWN, another class with several fine representatives. WESTERN WELCOME and GOLDEN MINK are two iris which show a new trend: Cool dark browns with bright yellow glowing in the heart. Very new and very interesting departures.

Still believe that OLYMPIC TORCH and BRASS ACCENTS, and BRONZE BELL are excellent. Each is distinctive and combine all the good qualities an iris should have.

HONEY HUE and BELLE PRAIRIE were two very fine iris this year. The latter was particularly appealing. It's smooth honey brown color was very nice. SUMMER HILLS was a medium brown with darker flecks—a huge and very nice iris which grows on you. COMMENTARY is an iris difficult to place, but one which I like very much. Buff standards and electric blue falls edged buff and a blue beard. Different.

AMOENAS, SUPERLATION seemed the best of the WHOLE CLOTH type seen. Pure white standards and light blue falls with fine form and branch. BRIGHT CLOUD shows clear contrast, but maybe a bit too airy.

MELODRAMA crossed to pinks seem to produce "GYPSY LULLA-BY" type iris. BON VIVANT was the best seen this year. Compared with GL, Bon Vivant has a softer color combination than does GL with a tall, well branched stalk compared with the non-branched GL.

SING ALONG is a small yellow amoena with pure white standards and deep yellow falls. ORGAN MUSIC was an interesting surprise and was a near yellow amoena. The falls a light yellow and the standards have a yellow mid-rib. The edges of the petals are serrated and lightly laced.

In developing a review like this, a few good iris are overlooked: PATRICIA CRAIG is a huge expansive white which should go far. ANGEL'S DREAM is an iris which has taken away to "take-off," but it is on its way now and we will be hearing a great deal about it in the future. GOODNESS is a huge milky blue-white with blue beard.

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## AND NOW IT'S SPRING

by H. H. Harned

Last week it was winter, or at least the aftermath because of the cold nights and heavy frosty mornings. And now suddenly everything is alive again, green, growing and full of promise. Too soon up here in the mountains to be sure that there will be no more freezes or frosts, such as we had last spring, but one can hope and expect anyway. So that's what I am doing—hoping and expecting—a real iris season in 1964.

Most of us like both the spring and the fall, but we iris fans do very much prefer the springtime because it spells beauty and rewards us for all of those long winter days and nights when dreaming was the only thing to keep our spirits up. And yet that is not quite true for we garden lovers, breeders and growers have made plans which we expect to be now realized.

Those of us who follow the breeding habit have it all outlined, in notebooks as well as in our minds just what to look for, to expect and to hope for. What crosses to make, what lines to work with, what future developments to expect—based on past experience, study and various breeding records. Often we follow blind leads, go far astray as to the proper use of matings. But this breeding game is so fascinating,

so many unexpected things do happen that we are forever thrilled with the results. Perhaps never quite satisfied, but never ready to call it quits because of the unsure outcome. It's been said that if a breeder gets one worth while or outstanding seedling out of a thousand that's a good ratio. But I contend that the one with experience can surely expect a much higher ratio, say one in one hundred. Perhaps not the one that will carry the chosen name, or be rated in the lists of the American Iris Society, but surely one that shows advancement, change or potentials in additional breeding. This is especially so in line breeding, for in that way we can and do expect certain patterns to obtain. Most of our leading hybridizers have found this to be so, especially David Hall, Dr. Kleinsorge, Bob Schreiner, Greg Lapham, Tell Muhlestein, and Chet Tompkins, to mention but a few. Some contend that outcrossing is the only method they follow. So be it. I would not quarrel with that point of view. But my own experience and some knowledge of the results of others leads me to believe that the line breeding pattern is the best and quickest method to get results.

By the time this is read by you, my fellow hobbyists, we will be through another season, will have noted the results and have already made plans for the future. For example we must have spotted some special value or values in a variety, perhaps have made use of them, or at least the stud book will carry notations to do so when the next season arrives. Perhaps the most wanted cross did not take, or but few seed resulted, but remember this fact that each seed has some potential—you may have hit it right on the head with the small crop from a given cross. Or you may well have followed the idea of a famous mid-western breeder and secured five hundred or even one thousand seed from the repeat cross.

Yes spring is our time of the year, no matter how much we enjoy the summer, fall and winter. It's a hurry up time, 'tis true, for the season is usually short, too short most of the time, but it can and must be enjoyed for all it is worth. If only a few of the better named varieties bloomed, or nothing really outstanding has come along among the seedlings we can still be pleased and very grateful for what we had. And we can plan, build our strains, exchange ideas and even plants, and look ahead. Such is the life of an iris bug, fan, nut or to use a better term hobbyist. There is no better hobby to follow, no one more

rewarding and surely none having more interest. I can say this factually even though, for me, it will not be a good year because of an illness that will not permit any gardening, travel, or judging. I will be satisfied just to look and enjoy, even though its hard to have to realize that the beds must go largely uncultivated and unweeded. Even though there is little chance for study and work with the seedlings that have come as a result of a long and well planned program. I shall be grateful if able to tag out the better seedlings, take some notes and plan for the future. If this makes me a "nut" or lets me be called "queer" so be it. It's my hobby, an important part of my life and I can and surely do urge others to embrace it. Especially in the breeding field, where one seeks to change or improve the usual pattern.

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## ANALOGY IN COLOR

by Earl W. Thomson\*

At the finish of a hectic week of admiring, discussing and visiting iris gardens, the distaff member of the marital partnership took her husband, whose hobby was irises, to the dress salon of one of the important department stores. He was deposited amid the multi-colored creations for the summer season, but being an irisarian he saw nothing but irises. In the place of honor was Whole Cloth, with its fitted bodice of whites, and its skirt of soft blue, awaiting some 16-year old to wear it to the junior high school prom. In the bridal salon was a gorgeous gown, with flared skirt. After examination of the price tag the irisarian saw it only as Winter Olympics.

That afternoon, at a military wedding in the Naval Academy chapel, the bride wore Celestial Snow, or maybe it was Cliffs of Dover, Wedding Bouquet or New Snow. The matron of honor was attired in South Pacific, and the bridesmaids were in the complementary colors of Lime-light and Blue Sapphire. The flower girl, of pre-teen age, had a flared

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\*Prof. Thomson retired in 1959 as Senior Professor Emeritus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. For years he lectured in physics to the midshipmen, one of his subjects being "Color".

gown of Pinnacle, with its white blouse. The bride's mother was gowned in Melodrama, with the bridegroom's mother in the contrasting tones of Rococo. The peau de soie texture of the bridal gown reminded one of the sculptured substance of Rehobeth.

As a going-away costume the bride wore a suit of Thotmes III with accessories of Wild Ginger. The honeymoon is to be in Hawaii where it is expected the bride will complement her shortened wedding gown with a red belt to appear as Frost and Flame at several parties planned in their honor, or she may even find a wide yellow obi so that she can be Patrician.

A spectroscopist would note that among the irises there are only a few pure spectral colors. The orange-yellow of Ola Kala, Gold Torch, Foxfire and Full Reward approach the D lines of sodium of wave lengths 5890 and 5896 Angstroms, which are at the somewhat variable dividing line between orange and yellow. It might be noted that on the color wheel non-metallic gold is 55% orange and 45% yellow. There are numerous good spectral blues, Harbor Blue, Sierra Skies, South Pacific, Galilee, Eleanor's Pride and Demetria, all more or less "pure". The choice of the navy blues (blue and black) must be Allegiance. First Violet stands out as the choice among the spectral violets, and of course the good yellows and the pinks are legion. Pink is defined as of red hue with low saturation and high brilliance, that is, mixed with a high percentage of white.

But the iris reds are impure from a spectral point of view, even Captain Gallant and Tillamook having an admixture of other colors, or too much black as in Garnet Royal. To remedy this situation the American Iris Society is promoting the development of the red irises through the award of the Cook-Lapham Cup, awarded this year to Captain Gallant, with Jungle Fires, Bang and Velvet Robe as runners-up.

The spectral greens are non-existent, in spite of the claims of some of the California hybridizers. More power to them.

While discussing the faults of the reds in the garden the other afternoon we were visited by the brunette six-month bride from next door wearing a mu-mu in firemen's red, of which-red-there-is-no-redder. A mu-mu, as if you didn't know, is a shapeless gown, hung from the

shoulders, introduced by the early missionaries to the Hawaiian women in order to hide the female form divine from the ogling eyes of the predatory males. This particular mu-mu put the iris reds to shame and emphasized their muddy colors with the admixtures of black, yellow, purple and maroon. It should be noted however that even scarlet has some yellow, and crimson has some blue. Here's to the iris, yet to come, which is a pure spectral red.

To return to our original thesis—the iris hobbyist sees only irises in the female costumes of the spring and summer. This points out a method of approach for all modistes and couturieres: "Go to the garden, examine the colors and color combinations of the irises, whether they be amoenas, plicatas, bicolors or selfs, and there you will find the proper combinations for your spring and summer line." I have yet to see, however, a dress goods equal to Lady Mohr, nor have I seen an iris equivalent to the plaids or tartans of the Stuarts or the MacDonaldis.

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## IRRADIATION OF IRIS SEED

James W. Seville

In the Charlotte Observer, on February 2, 1962, there appeared an article on the experiments which were being conducted with the use of radiation on seeds. I would like to quote a part of this article by Arthur J. Snider: "Chicago—Take 1,000 seeds, expose them to the radiation of atomic energy, plant them—and see what comes up.

"Nine hundred would look like the parent stock, unchanged. The other 100 would blossom into dwarfed, disfigured or otherwise bizarre plants.

"Replant the seeds from the malformed plants and perhaps one offspring in the next generation will be bigger, stronger, and healthier than the grand-parent.

"This tiny payoff is the basis for an increasing amount of research by biologists looking toward producing improved yield and greater disease resistance in economic plants. . . . ."

The article goes on to list various results which these experiments have caused: greater yield in bean crop in Michigan; change of blooming time in shrubs as much as three months in North Carolina; Swedish scientists produced through mutation a variety of barley that can grow successfully north of the Arctic Circle. . . . .

Other experiments were listed, but this gave me the idea that results could also be obtained with irradiation of iris seed.

At this time it was possible to send seeds to a station in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and they would treat the seeds for you. The government did custom irradiating with Cobalt 60 for a short time, charging you for the work, but I understand that they do not do this any more. I had a friend send 100 seeds to Oak Ridge, and planted them on their return. Last year I got a real nice yellow and crossed it with Spanish Affair with good results. From this I have some 20 plants up, which I hope will bloom next year. This year I had four or five more to bloom, and have seed pods on three of them; and am waiting anxiously to plant those seed.

This is another shot in the dark. There is no way of telling whether or not these seedlings might have been affected by the treatment. But since these were seedlings of the treated seeds, I used each of them that bloomed. However, you will see by the quoted article that only 1/10 of the seeds which I sent would naturally have been affected or have caused a mutation; and these that I have used could have been in the 9/10. However, it is an interesting experiment, and results will have to be reported later—if they occur.

## EXPERIMENT IN GRAFTING IRIS RHIZOMES

by James W. Seville

In the late Summer of 1962 I decided that I would experiment in grafting of iris rhizomes, with the idea of knitting two rhizomes together and forming one rhizome. I chose two rhizomes of the approximate same size and of a contrast in color range: Pierre Menard and Admiral Nimitz.

After choosing the two rhizomes which I wanted to merge into one, I cut them to fit, and pegged them with thin nails. Then I set the rhizome in the ground.

The Spring of 1963 this merged rhizome bloomed. It was light blue in color, near the color of Jane Phillips. It had good form and was generally a good iris.

During the Summer of 1963 I told quite a few friends of this experiment, and of the results. I wrote to several other irisarians whom I knew were interested in this sort of thing. Dr. Hechenbleikner of Charlotte College was in my garden before this rhizome bloomed, and he said that he did not see any possibility of it being successful. When it bloomed I phoned him, and he came back to see the bloom.

Edwin Rundlett of Staten Island, N. Y., wrote that a friend of his had claimed he had grafted irises successfully, but he wrote: "I did not follow it up, and he has kept still about it ever since. I had no opportunity to see his methods or results. Doubtless it has been tried numerous times, and I expect that it will show up in my reading of old AIS Bulletins."

Also I had a nice letter from Claude J. Davis, Bureau of Government Research of the West Virginia University in Morgantown, W. Va. He writes as follows:

"I was really pleased to learn that someone had again successfully grafted two irises. When the increases on your graft have bloomed, I hope you will report your experiment in full to AIS Bulletin. Mr. Schneider reported his experiment before the increases had bloomed, so we don't know what happened. I never did check on this. My guess

is that the increases on the Pierre Menard side of your graft will produce only Pierre Menard irises, and the increases on the Admiral Nimitz side will produce only Admiral Nimitz blooms. I am anxious to know if my prediction comes true."

I am sorry that I cannot at this time report if Mr. Davis' prediction will come true. Although this grafted iris is still living and doing well in my garden, for some reason it did not bloom this Spring so that I can report further on the experiment. However, I am looking forward to its blooming next season, and will be glad to report my findings then.

Thinking that my graft was a success, I tried again in the Summer of 1963, grafting ten rhizomes. Some of these bloomed this Spring, and one I thought had been successful: Pierre Menard and Palomino. I reported to several people that this was successful; however, when getting materials ready for this article, I noticed that it was a seedling of Palomino which I had used, and in examining the rhizome, I noted that it had not grown together properly. I will watch this group of grafts further.

At the time I started this experiment, I did not know that Mr. Schneider and others had done this. Since my success with Pierre Menard and Admiral Nimitz, I talked with Nannie Paquet and have had correspondence with her. She has tried grafting, but did not have success. She used paraffin to seal the two sections of rhizomes after cutting them to fit each other. However, each side of the rhizome bloomed according to the variety she had used in the graft.

Any experiment of this kind is like a shot in the dark. Like the predictions, nothing may come of these experiments—increases in them might revert to the original. But there is a chance of a "sport" near the cut—or nature might take care of the increases.

## LET'S STUDY FIRST—LET'S VISIT NEXT

Mrs. Elmer J. (Mary) Nifong

I think that one of the best ways to learn about iris is to really study the materials that we find about them. One of the best, of course, is catalog study, and this has many good points if we read carefully the descriptions. I'm afraid that I spend too many hours wishing and dreaming over the catalogues especially during the long winter months. But I think this time really pays off when I am able to see the new introductions and the older ones too that I have never grown before. Let's study some of the things that are being rushed along so fast and really evaluate their worth. Are they really better than others in their class? Is there an improvement in form? In color? What makes this new introduction different? Study!

When visiting in other gardens do you make notes? This can really be revealing. For instance in studying notes I made three years ago, I am adding to my want list—not some of the newer things, but some of those I made notes on three years ago.

Your visit to a garden may encourage the owner of that garden, especially if he is a new member. He may not have the newest introductions. What of it! He's established his love for iris and that yearning for improvement will come with the years. If we don't watch ourselves we will become "iris snobs"—thinking only of the newer introductions, and not really evaluating the iris to discern its real worth and value.

In your visiting make notes of landscaping plans that you might be able to use in your own garden. We can always learn something from every garden we visit. Let's visit—and study.

## BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

by Mildred Johnson

(The following is extracted from a letter to the Editor):

On Tuesday we went to Roanoke and visited several gardens. Mrs. Frances Brown had seedlings much more beautiful than any of the named ones growing in her garden. Mrs. Rena Frantz's Flagpatch was beautiful as usual. Mrs. McCoy's garden is small but a delight. Then we went to visit Fred Stephenson's garden. He has a lovely hillside garden. There were some fine seedlings growing. Both his peonies and perennial flowers were excellent.

Here are some of the iris I saw and liked very much: Claudia Rene, beautiful at Landsend and Flagpatch; Wild Ginger, a must have; Christmas Angel, this is an improved Patrician on my want list. Mission Sunset, a beautiful orange in both gardens—a must have along with Orange Parade. Arctic Flame: not as pretty as last year but this too I must have. September Song is another pretty orange. Desire Me was a pretty frilled yellow. Court Ballet a large and pretty pink. Pacific Panorama is a large and beautiful blue. Bright Cloud is the best in this color class. Wayward Wind is a different yellow with lots of green showing. Corabande, Tres Bien and New Frontier all performed well. Ecstatic Night was the darkest iris seen to date. Golden Spice is a pretty yellow plicata. Romanesque was pretty in all gardens. Cross Country is a fine frilled and ruffled light blue. Royal Fanfare and Lilac Snow were fine in the Lilac class. Gold Piece is a good deep yellow. Sterling Silver is a different blue. Flyaway, Belle Prairie, Moon Fantasy, Morning Breeze, Granada, and Bayadere were some more that stood out. Chinese Coral is a bright and showy plant that draws one like a magnet. Some more I liked were Mollie Emms, Pinwheel, Emerald Green, Fairy Fable, Superlatation, High Above, Symphony, and Lavendula.

Some that did well in my garden were Rippling Waters, Twilight Zone, Glamorous—a real crowd stopper, and Pretty Carol with eight bloom stalks. Firenze was another crowd stopper. Utah Valley had the biggest blooms and was a variety I liked very much. Crinkled Ivory and Celestial Snow I've had three years and got my first bloom this year. Lynn Hall tried to outdo herself but there are now many better pinks.

Spring Festival is a huge pink that did well on a one year plant. Emma Cook performed well as usual. Black Swan and Indiglow were crowd stoppers. Also the older Edenite tried to outdo itself. Full Circle was my best blue plicata.

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## MARYDEL CHAPTER

by Delma Glenn

Marydel's first meeting of '64 was held in Easton, Md., on Sunday afternoon, January 19th, at the home of Mrs. Henry (Elmira) Purdy, 107 Goldsborough St. Katherine VanDexter gave a talk on her iris garden. The group decided on Easton's Park for this year's public iris plantings. Edith Burklew and Esther Hillyer showed slides of dwarf iris with commentary. A bus trip to Winterthur, Delaware, was discussed. One name was added to our membership list, that of Mrs. Joseph (Viola) Davis, Rock Hall, Md. After the adjournment five kinds of homemade cake and coffee were served.

The second meeting was also held in Easton, but this time in Trinity Cathedral Chapter House of Goldsborough Street, and this was a covered dish luncheon. After a most delicious meal and much chit-chat, plans were made for garden touring. The dates specified for our own Eastern Shore gardens were as follows: Salisbury, Mardela Springs, Cambridge, and Easton on Sunday, May 10; Rock Hall and Chesterton on Tuesday, May 12; and Fredericksburg, Preston and Greensboro on Monday, May 18. Color slides of Melba Hamblen's recent introductions were shown. Nearly all of these beauties from '59 through '63 were included, plus several that are still only numbered. Mrs. Emma Bigelow of Chestertown, Md., was a guest at this delightful meeting that came to a close all too soon.

We are planning our next regular meeting when Elmira Purdy's Japanese iris are in peak bloom during June and Elmira will again be the gracious hostess.

## FANNIE'S CHATTER

Hi Folks: This is April 29th as I start this "chatter"—my first iris opened two days ago—with my help! It was a cool, cloudy day and it stood there all day just ready to pop. I watched from the kitchen window from time to time—finally—in the late afternoon I could not stand it—so I went out and very gently rolled the falls down and leaned over for a "whiff." This morning there were eight varieties open—and I made my first cross—from Irene Brown to Snow Flurry—not having a more suitable mate for I. B. But then who knows, old Snow Flurry is still a good parent. Cross your fingers for me—it might produce a Dykes!

And guess what! I learned today that Cascadian has a wonderful sweet perfume—I don't think I had ever noticed it before. It is a very lovely early white—one of my old whites that will continue to have a place in my garden. It is usually the first T. B. iris to bloom here—but was a day late this year—while Violet Harmony is two days earlier than any date before—it usually opens on May first here and lasts until May 20th. Do you folks keep such records? You might learn a lot if you would do so.

My two year old seedlings are loaded with buds—and the mattock is handy—this year most of them must be dug out. I don't believe any of the one year olds will bloom this year and today I potted 134 new seedlings—just up this spring.

Later—May 16th. Dear Me! What a race! I'm about to drop from packing packages to mail—I 'spect the mail carrier dreads my box. I had six boxes in it this morning—and when he only gave me two old advertisements in return, I told him I believed he was cheating me! He said it was a bit unusual!

I have had visitors to see the iris till my feet are killing me—and that's the truth. Today I put on bedroom shoes, paddled all over the garden in those. I even sat on my famous butterbean stool in the edge of the garden to answer questions—I could no longer tramp around! Ah me! "How do I know my youth has been spent—because my get up and go has got up and went."

Well, now! Maybe you folks will be interested in what I liked best in my garden this year—so first of the new things blooming for me for the first time, I fell hard for Orange Parade. Then at last my Luxury Line did bloom and of course I had a “kinipion” if you know what that means—I dare you look it up in the dictionary!

Then there were so many I'll never be able to part with, no matter what comes and what goes. There is beautiful Curl'd Cloud, Crinkled Beauty, Pacific Panorama, Triton, and I believe Spring Festival was as pretty as any pink I have had. Not quite as deep pink as some, but pink.

We had a display of iris at one of our community buildings yesterday—where the iris lovers around Reidsville brought their best specimens—with name tags—they gave me a table to myself—and called it “Commercial,” perhaps because I do sell a few as well as trade. John Wilson used to think I was the “tradingest” woman in the A.I.S. But I have learned that if'n you want something for sure you better order from a reliable iris dealer or know where your “trader” got their iris. And do tell me why folks have to pull up a label to read it. Even the most careful can make a mistake if some one moves the label—one reason I depend on a record book with my rows numbered and clump by clump numbered. Nothing gets me more than a pink variety turning out to be blue or vice versa.

Oh, yes, I was telling about our iris showing. It was our first effort of this kind here at Reidsville—so we just kept the colors separate—the amoenas together, the variagates together, the plicatas together and so on. There were some wonderful specimen blooms. I think we had approximately three hundred and quite a few visitors came to see and I saw some of them making notes. Then another wonderful thing happened to me the same day—I had visitors from the TV station in Greensboro's Channel No. 2. They made pictures all over my garden and talked with me. I knew they were recording and I am afraid I was nervous and maybe made a lot of mistakes—but I was very pleased and honored to have them visit. I could hardly believe my eyes when the big truck drove up and I saw the WFMY-TV sign on it. Miss Stoker said they had tried to telephone me, to see about an interview—but I suppose I was out in the garden and did not know about

it. I was so excited I almost forgot to ask them when it would be presented—They said next Thursday, May 21st sooo—I'll see myself. Imagine! Hope there were not too many mistakes. Tell you about it later.

Then, I must tell you another happy occurrence the same day. A former assistant pastor, Ken Alexander, of our Church here now living at Lanham, Maryland, called me long distance in the late afternoon. He lives next door or across the street from our Dr. Mitchell. He said had just talked with Dr. Mitchell and he told him it was possible I might be coming to our Regional Meeting this weekend and he was inviting me to be a guest at his home—wasn't that wonderful! And how I wish I could have gone—I especially wanted to see Dr. Mitchell's garden and Judge Quinn's—I saw Judge Quinn's garden in 1959, when we had the Daylily meeting in Washington—but his descriptions of those White Iris thrill me to the highest. I wanted every one—of course I do have some of them, but some I don't, and waiting is hard!

Dear me! Look at all this chatter—Dr. Mitchell will be dropping the whole thing in the waste basket if'n I don't stop.

Goo bye

FANNIE STADLER

## THE RAMBLING WRECK

by Rena Frantz

A note from your *Newscast* editor inquires if I have anything for his July issue.

First reaction—"I'm simply too tired to think!" Double take—"Of course, there are a few things . . ." Mature Consideration . . . "Maybe I'd better just start at the beginning . . ."

And such a nice beginning. Let's go to Norfolk! Back in the winter, Anne Lee had asked us to try and make their Chapter tour on May 9th. Of course, I later found that the Greensboro folks had chosen this same date for their tour and I had to refuse a lovely invitation from the O'Briens, but then, such is life! Fred Stephenson had a bright (?) idea that we could leave Roanoke on Friday night by train, make the Norfolk tour on Saturday and catch the train back on Saturday night. Now, Fred might find it interesting to stay awake forty-eight-plus hours hand-running. Youthful exuberance? No—Fred and I were born in the same town and I happen to know he's --- well, it wasn't that! There were some who indicated tactfully that maybe the wind was circulating through some of these apertures in his cranium. Anyway, that train never left the station and Fred, Frances Brown and I drove down on Friday. We were joined, on Saturday morning, by Bill Kelley of Lewisburg, who just happened (by some strange coincidence) to have business in the vicinity.

We had a lovely day. Those Norfolk members know how to plan a meeting (Delia Munn was chairman) and they also grow some excellent iris. At the risk of duplicating what someone else has said, I must comment on the beautiful programs which had been hand-painted by the very talented Rena Kizziar. There was an excellent luncheon and a short business meeting. Anne gave me three minutes to talk, half of which I used, hoping to be invited back another time to use the remaining half. We wound up the tour at Mickey Kirby's garden. Since there were a few of us who refused to leave, she served a delicious buffet.

Back home to peak bloom, early for us but the best in years, and not enough time to enjoy it, because the following weekend we traveled to Maryland for the Regional Meeting. I shall not attempt to cover this visit to the C. and P. Chapter because I am sure it will be done adequately elsewhere in *News cast*. Needless to say, we found the Maryland folks charming and hospitable. For the first time at a Regional Meeting, we made the rounds in buses. I think most of you will agree that this is really the only satisfactory way.

The Board Meeting was spent mostly in analyzing the suggested by-laws and voting on changes to be made. These by-laws, as published in your April *News cast* were passed at the business meeting as a temporary operating procedure. A committee, headed by Anne Lee has been appointed to draw up the permanent by-laws to be presented next year. Speaking of next year, we hope our North Carolina friends will be able to host the Regional Meeting in 1965. Attention! Frank Sherrill and John Wilson! More about that at a later date.

Again—back home—to start pulling out a few bloomstalks and to visit as many local gardens as possible. By the way, Frances Brown has some exciting seedlings. All you judges, look carefully and often next season. Bright prospects for Region IV! The following Sunday was spent with Jeanne Price in Blacksburg and the Zurbriggs in Radford. Jeanne's garden, in which she is experimenting widely with Sea Born, looks good to me! Lloyd and Margaret were moving and we felt that visiting them was an intrusion but we thoroughly enjoyed seeing Lloyd's seedling patch which contained several interesting things even though it had rained hard a few minutes before and we were in mud up to --- but then, you irisarians know all about that sort of thing.

On Sunday, May 24, we went to Lewisburg, West Virginia, to view the Kelly's garden. As usual, it was beautiful and we were again thrilled by the quiet charm of their lovely home. Florence was out of town and we were sorry to miss her but some of her friends made gracious hostesses. Bill escorted us to the gardens of some of the newer members in Lewisburg. We were much interested and would like to have seen them all, but somehow, there is never enough time.

Back home again to yank out the remaining bloomstalks (hot weather and lack of rain had cut our season short) and to get ready for the trip to the National Convention at Chicago. Their motto this year, "three friend-filled, fun-filled, flower-filled days." You can't beat that combination! There were sixteen of our Region IV members present—double the number who were in Colorado last year. Of course, that can't hold a candle to the number who will be at Memphis next year.

We saw many interesting gardens. If I had to pick the most exciting—Mr. Fay's with his new and old things blooming beautifully and some excellent seedlings; the garden I would most like to live with—the George Watts'. George is president of the Hemerocallis Society and would I love to have another look when the hems are blooming! The most thrilling new iris—Cliff Benson's Skywatch which I saw for the first time in his garden last year. I carried a mental picture of it all winter and it was just as magnificent as I remembered; an iris which was not too different in color (deep violet) but which was growing well everywhere and was outstanding in quality—Schreiner's Prince Indigo; the ones I marked "Get" when introduced: Fay's Tropic Isle, Radiant Light and Beautiful Morn, J. Marsh's Oyster Shell and Steve Moldovan's Irish Lullaby.

Thus endeth another iris season and the rambling wreck will become just a stay-at-home wreck with nothing much to worry about except the heat, auctions, plans for a Regional test garden, separating or moving some three hundred plants, throwing out another one hundred, putting in a hundred new ones; if it rains—rot—if it doesn't rain—watering; to mulch or not to mulch; winter kill, board meetings, fall chapter meetings, lectures, workshops, how to make Region IV the biggest and best yet and just incidentally, my job—decorating. But, come another May, will once more be ready to ramble and join the ranks of what Don Mitchell so aptly calls, "the gathering nuts."

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## INDEX

	PAGE
Regional and Chapter Officers	I
Membership Report	<i>Fred Stephenson</i> 2
Membership List	<i>Fred Stephenson</i> 3
Our R.V.P. Message	<i>Earl Browder</i> 13
The Editor's Page	<i>Donald W. Mitchell</i> 15
The Region's Business	<i>Donald W. Mitchell</i> 19
Three Fun-Filled Days	<i>Delma Glenn</i> 20
The Richmond Garden	<i>Delma Glenn</i> 23
The Rhodes Garden	<i>Ralph and Helen Lewis</i> 24
Stone Lantern Garden	<i>Lloyd Zurbrigg</i> 25
The Labash Garden	<i>Fred Stephenson</i> 27
Acorn Hill Iris Garden	<i>Anne Lee</i> 28
The LaMar Garden	<i>Esther Hillyer</i> 29
The Bennett Garden	<i>James M. Aultz</i> 30
"Chicago Time"	<i>Anne Lee</i> 32
The Iris	<i>Nell Warren Outlaw</i> 33
The North Carolina Iris Society Meeting for 1964	<i>Ralph and Helen Lewis</i> 35
The Norfolk Tour	<i>"Mickey" Kirby</i> 36
An Iris Season in Review	<i>Joseph J. Ghio</i> 38
And Now It's Spring	<i>H. H. Harned</i> 45
Analogy in Color	<i>Earl W. Thomson</i> 47
Irradiation of Iris Seed	<i>James W. Seville</i> 49
Experiment in Grafting Iris Rhizomes	<i>James W. Seville</i> 51
Let's Study First—Let's Visit Next	<i>Mary Nifong</i> 53
News from the Chapters	
The Blue Ridge Chapter	<i>Mildred Johnson</i> 54
The Marydel Chapter	<i>Delma Glenn</i> 55
Fannie's Chatter	<i>Fannie Stadler</i> 56
The Rambling Wreck	<i>Rena Frantz</i> 59