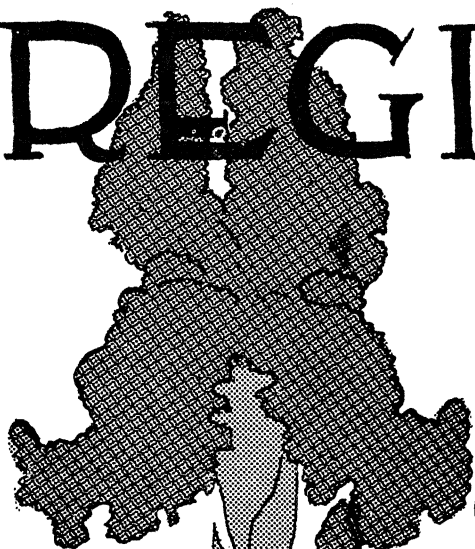


AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

REGION



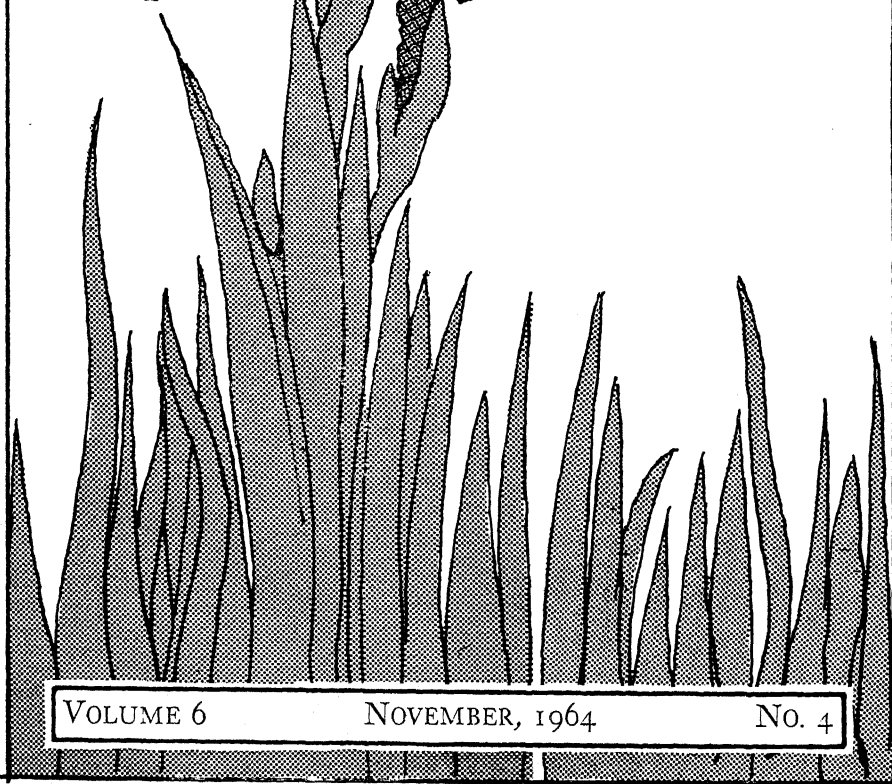
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NEWS
CAST

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AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, REGION 4

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Mrs. F. G. Ward	1908 Dayton Street, Bayside, Va. Beach, Va.

MOUNTAINEER CHAPTER

Dr. Claude J. Davis	364 Spencer Avenue, Morgantown, W. Va.
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Note: Those Judges who have no asterisk after their name are Garden Judges; those with one asterisk are Exhibition Judges; those with two asterisks are Senior Judges.

SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. James Aultz	1010 Thirteenth Street, Huntington, W. V.
Mr. Earl T. Browder	2517 Washington Avenue, St. Albans, W. Va.
Mrs. J. B. Crozier	Box 187, Iaeger, W. Va.
Mr. W. D. Kelley	653 Washington St. East, Lewisburg, W. Va.

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Mrs. B. J. Brown*	Route 3, Box 327-D, Charlotte 3, N. C.
Mrs. Craven B. Helms	Route 8, Monroe, N. C.
Mr. Robert McElheny	201 Mountain Street Black Mountain, N. C.
Mr. Frank Sherrill	401 Woodlawn Street, Davidson, N. C.

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Mr. Harold Harned	Post Office Box 81, Oakland, Md.
Dr. D. C. Nearpass	8526 50th Place, Hollywood, Md.
Mr. Ivan Richmond	9200 Flower Avenue, Silver Spring, Md.
Mr. Donnell M. Smith	Stevenson Station, Baltimore, Md.

MARYDEL CHAPTER

Mrs. Elton Bounds	Mardela Springs, Md.
Mrs. E. J. Hillyer	Rock Hall, Md.

OUR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Mamma" and I have just returned from church. It is Sunday, the 20th of September. And I daily expect a letter from Dr. Mitchell demanding that I earn my keep and get the "message" to him day before yesterday.

Mr. O' Brien, our immediate past R.V.P. gave us organization—and *Newscast*. These were his gifts to us. In all probability no R.V.P. will ever be able to equal them.

By nature, work and by inclination I dot each "i" and cross each "t", thus I hoped to weld the areas Mr. O'Brien had set up into a closely knit Region that would bring an increasing number of benefits to our members, whose number had also increased.

As I look back I see but precious little that I gave you. The "Chapter" idea was not mine, you recall. Though I was quick to seize upon the thought and put it to use. In effect it makes each A.I.S. member *the* A.I.S. where he is. In other words, the Chapter is a branch of the Region that is a branch of the National. It has worked fairly well, though no doubt needs polishing and a bit more firmness than I have shown.

Once upon a time one State of the Region held auctions and gave *all* the proceeds to the Region. It literally got us going. This seemed, and was, unfair. So at a Board meeting held January 20, 1962, it was decided that each Chapter would hold an annual auction, sale or show, or some combination thereof, and that 75% of the proceeds, after deducting expenses, would be sent to the Region. Oddly enough no one objected, though I fear one or two Chapters may be doing otherwise simply because they do not know the rules. And even these, once they know, will return to the rules of the game. Tho one Chapter (or is it two?) persists in sending *all* the auction proceeds to the Regional Treasurer.

Numerically we are about at a standstill. Many have simply failed to renew their A.I.S. membership for reasons best known to themselves. Some pass on to another world. Some grow too old to garden. Many leave us because we fail to hold their interest by a lack of local activities. A few have left because of an unkind word.

I feel that members now joining us will be more apt to stay. We are no longer "buying" them with gifts of irises. It was never a wise thing to do. I must confess that I was, perhaps, the chief sinner among you in that respect.

The years have passed swiftly—too swiftly. Much remains to be done that I hoped to accomplish.

We will have a Regional board meeting—I judge before you read this—at which I will give Mrs. Frantz the "keys to the kingdom" and will quietly fade into the background.

You chose wisely when you elected Mrs. Frantz to be your R.V.P. She has all the qualities required to make us an outstandingly good leader. But remember, she can do but little without your wholehearted support. Work with her as you have with me, and I assure you Region 4 will be the top Region within a very short while.

To those officers who served with me: thank you each and every one. We *do* have pleasant memories, don't we?

I have been reminded several times that I promised you my grandmother's story of "contemplating a flower." Please, I will. I promise. Provided your editor finds the story newsworthy and he has the space. I have tried several times to write the story for you but do not have the ability to command the simplicity of words and sequence that I must use if the story is properly told, so I will continue to try.

Mrs. Browder joins me in thanking all of you for the many kindnesses we have received from you. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be your R.V.P. and in the days that are yet to be we will hold each of you dear to our hearts.

Sincerely,

EARL T. BROWDER
Regional Vice President
Region 4, The American Iris Society

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Contributions from the Region have been a trifle scanty this quarter. Hence, we are borrowing some worthwhile articles from the New York and North Carolina iris publications. Borrowing should always be a mutually beneficial process and we are glad to be able to report that a number of articles from *Newscast* have been reprinted in other magazines. We are glad to be able to reprint in this issue further reports on chemical weed and grass control. Right now this is an extremely live subject. Very good reports have reached us regarding Tretlon which is being used very successfully by cotton growers on the basis of one to three pints an acre. We haven't tried this one yet on iris and it may not be successful. Reports from North Carolina are dubious as to the advisability of its use. Simazine requires water to be effective. Hence, during the driest four months this area has experienced in more than eighty years it has been far less effective with us than was the case during the Spring.

By the time this issue of *Newscast* reaches you virtually all the new iris will be planted, fertilized, marked, mapped, and possibly mulched. This is therefore a good time to give consideration to a long range problem that every serious irisarian must consider at some time, namely how his garden is to be developed. Is it to grow like Topsy or is there to be some plan guiding the acquisition of new iris?

Our scientist friends frequently make use of the term "parameters" (or limits) in describing a problem. All iris growers as well face certain parameters within which they must operate. The most common parameters are probably those of space and cost. Few of us have unlimited space which we can or will devote to iris and fewer yet have unlimited funds. The course which is theoretically most appealing, acquiring new introductions in large numbers, is therefore ruled out for most gardens by financial considerations. With several hundred varieties appearing every year, at average costs of \$20-\$25 per rhizome, the vast majority of gardens can't afford such a policy.

Yet there is here no cause for despair. Not only is it far easier and cheaper to acquire new varieties of iris than appears to be the case, but

it is easily possible to develop a lovely and distinctive garden without employing a single recent introduction.

If you are inclined to challenge either of these statements please bear with me.

First, let us consider the case of the person operating without any newer iris. Is his case deplorable? In peonies, roses, and dozens of other flowers old varieties are in large and widespread use. In the case of iris there are between twenty and thirty thousand varieties of tall bearded which have been introduced. In addition, there are the ones, Siberians, Louisianas, Japanese, cristatas, tectorums, bulbous and many, many others. There is here such a wealth of floral riches as to stagger the imagination and to demand specialization and choice.

The iris grower may specialize in any of dozens of ways, any one of which can bring about a fine and appealing planting of iris. He may choose to develop a distinctive line of seedlings. He may acquire on the basis of the 100 most popular varieties or of Award of Merit winners. Famous historical irises or irises that have been celebrated breeders such as Snow Flurry may furnish the motive back of his efforts. Or he may collect by color. Our good friend, Judge Carey Quinn, is a specialist in white irises. Other growers may emphasize neglectas, or selfs, or bi-colors. One very common type of specialization is the collection of Dykes winners. Yet how many exhibits have you seen that included all French and English Dykes as well as American? One of our own customers was determined to procure all the Mohrs until we apprised her of the vast size of the task she was undertaking. The collection of iris oddities or of types other than TBs is another way of specializing.

If none of these methods for developing a garden appeals to the irisarian and he remains incurably addicted to expensive iris there are still many ways of getting these iris without putting the family bank account in the red. There are a great many ways of obtaining new iris other than paying full list price. Here are a few we have used extensively ourselves:

Trading. This is probably the best and cheapest way of getting new iris. Providing one enjoys a large acquaintance gained through robins, meetings, and other activities trading is reasonably easy. We

get most of our newer iris this way and every year trade the increase of expensive iris we have for others that we want. Most years we make as many as a dozen trades and only bother to buy those on our list that we couldn't get by swapping. The trading method does have two drawbacks. In the first place it sets back the development and increase of some very popular iris. Both last year and this we found ourselves traded or sold down to one rhizome in the case of probably two dozen varieties that were in heavy demand. A second limitation is that very seldom can one obtain rhizomes of the current year's introduction by this method. In addition one should add that in iris trading as in every other human activity one can occasionally meet an unethical trading partner. In many years of swapping iris we have never had this experience but some persons we know have had it.

A second method is that of using chapter auctions. Many chapters in Region 4 have been holding such auctions for years. At times new introductions are raised as chapter guests and then lifted and auctioned, usually at prices far below those listed. In this year's C & P auction we estimated that the value (by catalog price) of the iris up for auction or sale was about \$7,000. Since proceeds from the auction were slightly under \$1,000 it would appear that most iris sold for about one-seventh of the list price.

Should both trading and auctions be out of the question and the irisarian be forced to buy recent iris on the open market there are still profitable and unprofitable ways of doing so. Most commercial iris nurseries sell rhizomes at half price or less, not always directly to be sure, but by providing discounts and extras with the order. Probably the most effective way of ordering iris is to send a check for a given amount and also send a long wanted list at least five times the amount of the check. A nurseryman, given some leeway in making his selections, is thus challenged to be generous. Usually we get three or four times the value of the check. Never have we gotten less than double the value. Incidentally, since we sell irises commercially ourselves, let it be added that we would prefer dealing with persons who employ the method described here.

How well do these theories work in practice?

If a personal reference is excusable we would say that they have worked extremely well. Over the last four years we have acquired an average of about 200 new varieties a year. Although some of these have been oldies or oddities the vast majority have been recent introductions with catalog prices of more than \$5.00. The amount actually paid for these new iris has usually been about one-eighth the total list price of iris acquired. We repeat: it has been far easier and cheaper to get new iris than most irisarians believe.

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
REGION 4
1964 SYMPOSIUM BALLOT**

Note: A total of 101 of our members voted. Of the 506 varieties listed to vote for our members ignored 121, but gave us 116 write-ins! We list all varieties receiving 15 or more votes, and the top five write-ins.

No. Votes	Name of Variety	No. Votes	Name of Variety
53	Whole Cloth	22	Frost and Flame
51	Allegiance	21	Butterscotch Kiss
49	Amethyst Flame	20	Dot and Dash
39	Black Swan	19	Esther Fay
37	Celestial Snow	19	Fluted Haven
31	Blue Sapphire	19	Indiglow
30	Melodrama	19	Olympic Torch
30	Rainbow Gold	19	Sable
28	Rippling Waters	18	Bravado
26	Eleanors Pride	18	Henry Shaw
26	Rococo	18	Mary Randall
25	One Desire	17	Bronze Bell
25	Orange Parade	17	Caribou Trail
23	Edenite	17	Golden Masterpiece
23	Jane Meredith	17	Miss Indiana
23	Violet Harmony	17	Wild Ginger

16	Emma Cook	5	Pretty Carol
16	Galilee	4	La Negra Flor
16	Swan Ballet	3	Kings Choice
15	Celestial Glory	3	Son of Satan
15	Crinkled Beauty	3	Sterling Silver
	Write-ins	3	Zantha
9	Winter Olympics		

Once more I am amazed at the number of really good iris we do not vote for, and once more point out that no matter how meritorious a variety might be it simply will not be voted for if it is not widely grown.

Sincerely yours,

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

THE 1964 IRIS SEASON IN REGION FOUR

As seen by Ralph and Helen Lewis

Here in Durham the 64 season was remarkable for very nice bloom and for a very short season. So far as we could tell in our trips, the short season was general, but many growers suffered a lot more frost damage than we did. One result was that we covered fewer gardens than usual. Our range of coverage was also limited by a bad fall in Silver Spring and later being run into and having no car the last week of June. The gardens visited included the Wilson, Elsevier, Jones, Cannon and Flintom gardens here; Witherspoon and Gatling gardens in Raleigh; Powell garden in Princeton; O'Brien, Paquet, Johnston and Parham gardens in the Greensboro-High Point area; the Nifong garden near Winston-Salem; and the Fowler, Mitchell, LaMarr, Rhodes and La-Bash gardens during the Region IV meeting. We saw some nice iris in Northern Maine and New Brunswick gardens in late June, but none on the way up.

Of primary interest to us were good new named iris, and seedlings by Region IV hybridizers. We did not see them all and only comment on the ones we saw. First, Lolita Powell's group of fine new ones—

CAROLINA ROYAL (61)—A fine deep blue, excellent as a performer. We have good reports on it from as far west as California. It is a splendid parent, and brings a different blood line into the darker blues.

CAROLINA PEACH (64)—A pale shell pink, very delicate in appearance but of exceptional hardiness and toughness.

CAROLINA RUBY (64)—A big, clean hafted red that takes sun and wind, performs well in the South, and stands comparison with the best.

TAR HEEL (64)—Call this a deep blue violet or black, it is a very dark iris that is happy down South where many dark ones are poor performers. It is excellent in all respects.

Lolita also had several really interesting seedlings blooming for the first time this year.

PRINCESS ANN (58)—Dr. Zurbrigg's fine big iris with tight ruffled yellow standards and wide flaring white falls edged yellow, is an excellent iris and notable for exceptionally good substance.

PRINCE CHARLES (58)—From the same hybridizer is an excellent and different variegata. The tight standards are gold in tone and the deep red falls have an edge of the same color. This is an excellent iris in every respect.

BREATH of KILLARNEY (N. O'Brien '58)—A ruffled white with a greenish cast and nice style marks—lines at the haft. Charming.

O'BRIEN (19-60-A)—Was a most excellent white, as any new seedling must be to attract attention in a color class crowded with beauties.

CHANGING WORLD (Paquet '60)—A big well formed flower, creamy white with a pink flush and a tangerine beard. A beautiful flow-

er, strongly subenced, on strong, tall, well branched stems. A good performer.

LEWIS 642—A blue from Allegiance that made us quite happy, based on a first year performance. It was very fertile both ways.

Two out of the region seedlings were so well liked in our garden as to demand comment.

TOMPKINS 60-220—A light porcelain blue sister to his exquisite Silver Song, and DUBES-YOUNG 57-15-1—A light blue with a darker blue beard crested red that was terrific for us.

PINK TORCH (Brizindine '60)—An exceptionally brilliant deep toned pink flower of fine form and substance. A garden stand-out.

WHOLE CLOTH (P. Cook '58)—Here is an iris that deserves its DM if ever one was deserved. Beautiful, with white standards and medium blue falls, nicely formed and of exceptional substance, this iris has been as reliable and fine performer, overall, as any we know.

CONGO DRUMS—A showy, very deep purple Siberian Iris, very rich in appearance. If you care to grow something besides tall bearded, here is a good one.

BLACKNESS (C. Lewis '59)—An excellent "black" from the red side, has the glow and life that we find in Edenite. Substance and form are excellent and it is a good performer.

SUGAR BABE (Schmelzer '62)—A slightly pastelled rose-violet flower with a tremendous amount of lace. Standards touch and falls flare pleasingly. Branchings, substance, and performance are very good.

FLAG SHIP (Tompkins '60)—A big stylish blue-violet flower, excellently formed, very flaring, and possessing superb substance. Here is a fine dark blue that is an excellent parent.

AMETHYST FLAME—We saw this Dykes Medal Winner giving a superb performance in garden after garden.

FAIRY FABLE (Ernst '61)—One of the true pinks, neither shell nor rose in tone, with a deeper pink beard. Not widely grown in this

section, it is worthy of more attention. One of the best. Its form, substance, and performance are excellent.

SNOW GODDESS (Becherer '55)—A big white that rates inclusion for its general excellence and its exuberance of performance year after year. This will do well if any iris will.

PIERRE MENARD (Faught '48)—A superb older dark blue that is still outstanding. How many times we have rushed over to see "what that fine dark blue" was and found Pierre doing his stuff with the best of them. A fine parent, a finer grandparent.

BLUE REJOICE (Dubes-Young '62)—A big, very flaring medium blue, excellent for clarity of color, substance, and performance.

SUN HAVEN (Reynolds '59)—A deep golden yellow iris, excellent in every way, as are all Reynolds iris. It is a fine performer in this part of the country.

NIKE (J. Nelson '59)—A very large flower of deep apricot coloring. It is beautifully formed, nicely ruffled, and has exceptionally fine substance.

ORANGE JADE (Wise '63)—This is our favorite among the "orange" iris. It is nearer to true orange than any other we have seen. We raved about it as a seedling before it got its H.C. and was introduced, and we still think it is a real good one.

PACIFIC PANORAMA (Sexton '60)—A big, well formed and subtended flower of medium to medium-dark blue, that is unusually free of violet tones. It is in every way an excellent iris.

HENNA STITCHES (Gibson '61)—A superb plicata with henna markings on a clean, clear white ground. Standards are globular and closed, falls broad and flaring, substance and branching are excellent.

PARTY FAVOR (Plough '59)—A pale, creamy pink flower, lighted up by a Saturn red beard. It is extremely effective in the garden.

ANGIE (C. Smith '58)—A fine deep rose purple flower of nice form, good substance and branching. This is very worth while.

EMMA COOK (P. Cook '59)—An exceptionally charming flower from Paul Cook's Progenitor breeding. The beautifully formed flowers

are white with a wash of blue at the edges. Under certain soil conditions this blue border may nearly disappear.

APPLE VALLEY (DeForest '58)—A large and excellently formed flower of cream with pink tints and flushes, with pink and gold at the haft. Here is one that is different and beautiful. The beard is orange.

GOLDEN DELIGHT (E. Smith '60)—A very large medium yellow flower with closed standards and semi-flaring falls, that has a self beard. Substance and branching are excellent.

BLACK SWAN (Fay '60)—About the most talked about of the fairly recent blacks. The flowers are large, well formed, and strongly substantenced, and are carried on sturdy, well branched stalks. It is tall for a black and generally a real good performer. It may be a little subject to damage from severe cold, though this is not proven.

BREATHLESS (Schreiner '62)—A big showy flower with some gold at the throat and a bright orange beard to set off its lovely pink coloring. Substance and branching are good.

ECSTATIC NIGHT (P. Cook '63)—Here is the last of Paul Cook's own selections of black iris. We watched this from its first year of seedling bloom. Form and color were excellent, all things looked for in a good iris were there. However, its most notable characteristic is its extremely velvety texture which seems to be noticeable even on the standards. This gives remarkable color depth.

FLYAWAY (J. Nelson '60)—A beautiful violet flower, particularly notable for the abundance of lace. Deep in color, of good substance, and nice in every way; this is one that should be well liked.

CREAM CREST (Tell '59)—A big ruffled, nicely formed creamy or ivory flower that is unusually well substantenced. Standards are tight and the unusually broad falls have a nice flare.

MOUNTAIN MUSIC (Tompkins '59)—A big dusty rose violet with a bright blue beard. The stalks are tall and the branching is well above average. Form is exceptionally flaring.

CLOUD DANCER (Plough '59)—A big, very ruffled white with a bright red beard. Though the standards do not touch, form is still excellent. Very spectacular.

SUDBURY RIVER (Butterick '59)—A huge light blue of superb form, excellent substance, and a very clear true blue color. Superb.

INDIGLOW (Schortman '59)—We do not think this iris is as blue in tone as Allegiance; it is satiny in texture rather than velvety; it is perhaps the most vigorous grower of any dark blue. The flowers are big; it is very floriferous and a big increaser. One of the truly fine iris.

STAMPEDE (Tompkins '59)—A good red about the shade of Defiance but has a hint of copper. The flowers are large, the stalks sturdy, and it is a good performer.

MARIE PHILIPS (Tell '63)—Here is one of the most charming irises we have ever seen. A beautiful flower of exceptionally pure medium light violet color. This one is exquisite.

As has been the case every time we have written up varietal comments, there have been so many exquisite iris to see and report that we have made no attempt to criticise any that we personally disliked—perhaps it was not well grown, in an environment that did not suit it, or during a bad year.

POSTSCRIPT ON CHEMICAL WEED CONTROL

Carlos Fleury

The April *Newscast* carried the article on chemical weed control, and since its publication a few observations have been made and a little additional information is available.

With respect to Dalapon. The few plants which were treated with this grass killer were still alive in the spring. However, the plants which were sprinkled with the chemical to wet the foliage of the iris, as well as the weeds, were considerably distorted. The plants which were protected from the spray, though the weeds were wet, and the chemical also fell on the soil, were normal and healthy. Dalapon thus may be tried in iris plantings to kill grass, but should be kept off the iris foliage. Follow directions on the can, but keep off iris foliage.

Banvel D, which kills wild garlic and some other weeds was apparently safe on bearded iris at low dosages such as 1 and 2 pounds per acre when applied overall, and up to 4 pounds per acre when applied as a directed spray.

The 1962 seed crop, grown in 1963 without any soil cultivation whatsoever after planting of the seed, produced on many plants 3 and 4 bloomstalks this spring. The method of culture relying on chemical weed control, which deserves a try elsewhere, is as follows: Soil was plowed and disced in the summer, then fumigated with methyl bromide, vapam or mylone according to the directions given by the manufacturers. Calcium cyanamide was not quite as active. The seed was planted about 6 inches apart in rows 1 foot part. Six rows of seed then a 3 foot aisle, then six more rows of seed. Michigan peat was put in the row, to cover the seed, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in a band 2 inches wide. The furrows were then closed, with the seed about an inch deep. In late March, Simazine AG was applied to the soil at 1 pound active ingredients per acre. These plots were almost completely weed free during the entire growing season of 1963.

Further investigations are needed to establish the suitability of the various chemical weed killers for use in iris plantings. Simazine seems to be one of the most promising for the bearded iris.

THE C & P AUCTION

The Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter, A.I.S., held its annual auction on 28 June, 1964, at the Silver Spring home of Mrs. Ernest H. Clay. Profiting from the mistakes of the year before when the date chosen conflicted with a day lily tour, the chapter chose a Sunday date for the auction that involved no conflicts, opened the auction to the general public as well as chapter members, provided advance publicity regarding the more attractive varieties coming up for auction, and secured large scale cooperation in the donation of rhizomes by leading irisarians of the chapter. The result was by far the most successful event ever held

by the chapter. Attendance might have been bettered though over sixty were present which exceeded previous years. The quantities of iris on hand were so great that although everything sold at a fraction of its catalog value gross receipts were just short of \$1,000. Some of the favorable results of the auction were increased financial support of *News-cast*, a large balance in the chapter treasury, and the purchase of over thirty new introductions which are now growing in host gardens but will be up for auction in 1966.

Most of the advance planning was done by Chapter Chairman E. Fowler. A committee composed of the Fowlers, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. Frank "Bud" Bennett, and Dr. Donald Mitchell worked from 10 a.m. on to prepare all iris for an auction which was supposed to open at 2 p.m. but which was actually a bit late getting under way. The early workers were later joined by Dr. Bill and Mrs. Ellamay Hollis, Dr. Don Nearpass, Connie Labash, Jean Clay, and Sam Luck who also assisted. Auctioneering chores were divided between "Bud" Bennett and the writer. Bidding for new introductions was spirited though bargain prices prevailed. The top price of \$6.75 was paid for Treasure Trail, a \$25 Tompkins iris. From the standpoint of making money the huge quantity of iris on hand was probably a handicap. Ten Edenites sold at \$1.25 each as compared to one rhizome for \$7.25 the previous year. More than two dozen fine Firenze rhizomes were given as dividends. Only iris retailing at \$2.50 or more were auctioned. Those selling at a catalog price of \$1 or less went at a rate of five for \$1, while others retailing at \$1 to \$2.50 sold at three for \$1. For the first time dwarfs, many oncos, Siberians and Louisanas were offered along with the more numerous TBs and were quickly snapped up. Major contributors of iris for the auction included the following gardens: Stone Lantern, Acorn Hill, Rhodes, Bennett, Richmond, Clay, Labash, Luck, and Donnell Smith. Some of the best sales were of rhizomes belonging to the chapter and raised for sale in host gardens.

At 4 p.m. intermission in the bidding punch and cookies were served and drawing was conducted for the door prize and the winners of five chances. Mrs. Virginia Alexander of Gaithersburg, Md. was the fortunate winner of the door prize, a rhizome of Treasure Trail. Five winners of \$20 iris on chances were Mrs. Connie Labash, Mrs. Anne

Allen, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Jud Mather, and Miss Constance Whipp. The largest buyers of iris in order of amount were Mrs. Donovan, Mr. Harold Carr, Dr. Mitchell, Professor Earl Thomson, Mrs. E. H. Clay, and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Dominy. Some iris that failed to sell at the auction were lumped together and sold wholesale. Since three winners of chances and the largest single buyer were non-A.I.S. members the advantages of an open auction were apparent.

1964 A.I.S. CONVENTION NOTES*

Borrowing the thought, if not the actual title from Television's T.W.3 program, the Chicago convention almost became "the convention that wasn't!" Our genial chairman, Ed Varnum, explained at the social hour that a meeting was actually called two weeks before the opening date, to get an opinion on the advisability of calling off the whole program.

The very early hot weather had done for Chicago gardens what it did here—brought the bloom on so rapidly that everynoe felt we should see nothing worthwhile. However, two things deterred the committee: the threat of lawsuits and the promise of prayers of all good irisarians, particularly those of Brother Charles of Mission Gardens. These must have been answered because cool weather came and held all through the convention. The beds were held back and bloomed at just the right time. We not only saw great quantities of beautiful irises in full bloom, but had the most comfortable temperatures in the gardens while viewing them.

Those who have never attended a convention may not know that the program usually follows a customary pattern. There is a social hour so that everyone can get acquainted with new people and re-acquainted with those pleasant and interesting ones met in previous conventions.

*From the Empire State Iris Society *Newsletter* August 1964.

The tours and the luncheons which are provided for in the registration fee are always so well worked out that it is almost incredible that a committee working far in advance can accommodate so many people so efficiently. Much credit should be given to these planners.

The evenings are filled with interesting, informative meetings. There are those special groups where slides are shown and speakers pass along some of their knowledge. It may be about arils, Siberians, dwarfs, Japanese, tall bearded or any other type of iris, but wherever your special interest lies, there is something for you.

It was a great joy to hear the honorable Harry Randall from England, whom many of you have met and known. He not only spoke from his great knowledge of things pertaining to iris growing and of his happy association with many of our American hybridizers and growers, but he took the opportunity to thank the American people for the great assistance given to Great Britain during World War II. Perhaps he felt a bit apologetic for injecting a slightly political note into an iris convention, for he said, "Where is there a better place to promote understanding than among gardeners?" We were happy to hear this credit given to America for her aid, and agreed that gardeners are usually very understanding people.

It is interesting to note that the Northern Illinois Iris Society was founded as recently as February 1959 when 14 people joined under the name of "The Suburban Iris Society". From the enthusiasm of that small group, the "fire" spread until in October of that same year they voted to amend the constitution so the name could be changed to the present one. In just one year the membership had grown from 14 to 125. It includes all the northern half of Illinois, and now boasts 400 more members than the original 14. Their enthusiasm is unbounded, and their accomplishments great.

For such a young society to undertake the staggering task of staging a national convention and bringing it to a successful result, is indeed a feat to be praised. Should we older groups try to rekindle the flame of interest and perhaps be *individually* responsible for calling on those who for some reason may have lost interest? There is so much to be gained from the pooling of knowledge, and from the enjoyment of each other's

gardens, and, most of all, from good fellowship. Let's let them know that we need them and hope that they need us.

It would be impossible to spend enough time to see all the fine irises shown in the Chicago area. There is such a wealth of fine hybridizers there that the offerings far outdistance the time allotted for inspection.

To visit Orville Fay's garden and just listen to this producer of superb irises is an education. Some of the things which were especially impressive were:

CHAMPAGNE MUSIC. Pale blue-orchid, touched with white, a beautiful pastel flower with just a touch of red in the beard. Perfectly formed, ruffled, and with horizontal falls.

TROPIC ISLE (Fay). Not yet introduced. Same color class. Another seedling from Morning Breeze line.

RIPPLING WATERS (Fay). Blend of blue-orchid, cream and pink; red tangerine beard, closed standards, flaring falls.

MORNING BREEZE (Fay '63). Very beautiful, exceptionally large, warm blue-orchid and cream with a white tipped, tangerine beard. Excellent branching, substance and form.

FLAMING HEART (Fay '63). This is an intense blend of pink, salmon and tan, with a porcelain smooth texture. Has the effect of a pink self. Fine branching.

ORANGE CHARIOT (Fay '64). Smooth, well branched, orange self. Large tangerine beard.

CHINESE CORAL (Fay '62). Pink-orange with coral beard.

RADIANT LIGHT (Fay, probably to be introduced next year). Sib to Orange Chariot. Strong orange in falls, pink flush in standards.

ESTHER FAY (Fay '61). A beautiful clear pink, wonderful in a garden clump. Has everything—form, branching, substance.

ARCTIC SKIES (Fay '60). In all gardens it was outstandingly beautiful. Ice blue standards, white falls, very large flowers, fully ruffled, pale lemon beard white tipped.

CELESTIAL SUNLIGHT (Mission Gardens '60). As impressive a yellow as any seen. In a garden clump it is very beautiful. Clear, medium yellow, bright yellow beard, small lighter area near tip of beard, good strong stalks, good branching.

MUSIC MAKER (Waters '63). A sky blue, breathtaking beauty with exceptionally large flowers, ruffling, perfect forms and branching.

PRAIRIE BLAZE (Marsh). Gorgeous orange—outstanding in this color class. It is bunchy but should be an excellent parent for orange seedlings. Jim Marsh, the hybridizer of Prairie Blaze, has a wealth of orange seedlings.

MAIN EVENT (Peterson '60). Among the reds, nothing looked better or stood up better in the sun than this black-red with yellow beard.

JUNGLE FIRES (Schreiner '60). Flaring red—silky, smooth finish—good branching.

SIVA SIVA (Gibson). Brown plicata—looked exceptionally good again this year.

SUMMER HILLS (Babson). The color of ripe grain with purple flecks. Unusually exotic, beautiful.

JAVA DOVE (Plough). Here is an unusually beautiful iris. It is the color of an old fashioned china doll. Ivory standards, deeper pink-ivory falls, ivory tipped pink beard.

TEALWOOD (Varner). The only way to describe it is as a *flat formed* Siberian; deep purple, different, intriguing.

ULTRA POISE (Noyd). Medium sized flower—well branched golden yellow self, ruffled. Beautiful orange beard.

MARIE PHILLIPS (Tell '63). A wisteria-violet self with a matching beard; closed standards, flaring falls, clean and wide.

SKYWATCH (C. Benson '64). This iris was the hit of the convention. Everyone who saw it exclaimed over its exceptional beauty. It has perfectly branched stalks and is a smooth lavender self with exceptional substance. It has very wide, semi-flaring falls and perfectly domed standards. It is an immense, perfectly proportioned flower.

HELEN TRAUBEL (C. Benson). Large, cerulean-blue self. Beautiful in a garden clump.

ARCTIC FURY (C. Benson). By the same discriminating hybridizer as Henry Shaw (C. Benson '59). It is a large pure white iris, semi-flared and ruffled. It is difficult to imagine an improved Henry Shaw, which seems to be a perfect white iris, but this one is an improvement. Its falls are rounder and even better proportioned.

JEAN SIBELIUS (C. Benson). Large, ruffled, steel blue with all the ear marks of the quality of Benson irises.

Of the *Medians*, two were seen that were very nice.

DRUMMER BOY (an IB, Schreiner '63). A blue, and

JUNGLE SHADOWS (a BB, Sass-Graham). Deep yellow standards and rosy lemon falls.

On the way to Chicago, it was a privilege to visit two lovely gardens. One was that of Mr. and Mrs. Don Waters in Elmore, Ohio. The other was Steve Moldovan's garden in Avon, Ohio. The Waters' garden has an abundance of well grown irises. It is a rather small garden, but the loving care which these gracious people lavish on their fine plants is clearly evidenced by the excellent show of beautiful blooms.

Steve Moldovan is a young hybridizer to watch. The things he has already introduced are excellent. As many of you know, COURT BALLET (Moldovan '60) is an outstanding pink iris. STERLING SILVER (Moldovan '63) is beautifully formed. The standards are medium blue-violet. Falls are reddish violet. Flowers are heavily ruffled and of excellent substance. Well branched. Many more good things are coming from this grower. His garden is growing more beautiful each year. The theme is Japanese, and it becomes more peaceful and inviting as each new area is developed. The Dutch irises were at their best and greatly enhanced the beauty of the tall bearded irises and the peonies.

The next big display in the Moldovan garden will be day lilies. From early spring when Steve's flowering crabs, cherries and other horticultural specimens are blossoming, this should be a garden to visit on anyone's list.

Attending a convention is the best possible way to learn about our favorite flower, the iris. If fun, good fellowship and a bit of travel are foremost on your agenda, it is just the place to find them. The southern contingent was in Chicago in force. They are all gracious, charming, hospitable people who, I feel sure, would want me to invite you to go to Memphis to the 1965 convention, so I shall say to all of you as they did to us, "Y'all come, hear?"

(MRS. WALTER) HELEN SAVAGE, North Syracuse

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER AUCTION

Nannie J. Paquet

The North Carolina Chapter of Region 4 held its annual iris auction at 1:30 p.m., July 11, at the home of Mr. John H. Wilson, 3401 Rockingham Road, Greensboro, N. C.

The attendance this year was about half of the usual number, there being forty-one present. Four were from Virginia, two from West Virginia and the rest from North Carolina.

A picnic lunch was served after which the auction got under way. The auctioneer was our own John Wilson.

There were not as many of the newer irises offered this year as in former years, so we are planning to buy some new varieties of iris to be grown to be offered at the auction next year.

During the auction there were pauses along to let John have a rest period, in this period some good iris was raffled off at 50 cents a chance. There were several such irises offered.

Our auction netted us \$315.00 about half the amount we usually have. There is always good fellowship and plenty of laughs at the auction. Every one had a good time and went home well pleased with their purchases.

Mr. Wilson wishes to express his appreciation to all who helped make this auction a success.

HYBRIDIZING — FUN!

Mrs. Loletta Powell, Princeton, N. C.

Reprinted from North Carolina Iris Society *Bulletin* No. 26, April 1964

Hybridizing is something that anyone who does not do will not understand; we who indulge our whims to create anything are always suspect. But we are the ones who have the fun—and don't you forget it.

In the first place, we are the weak ones, for who that loves flowers has not wished for just this or that shade of difference in a flower not yet existent? Maybe it is a color, or more often it is a particular color combination; surely, for instance, we had pretty whites and blues in irises before Whole Cloth, Prettyfield, and Emma Cook were born in the fabulous Cook garden. Now the race is just as strong for as pleasant a combination in pink and white, pink and blue, and brown and white; there is also a quest for odd beards, such as pink on blue, deep furry blue on white and other such, when you and I can well remember when the tangerine bearded so-called pinks were novelties—a certain blue-bearded white from Ice Cavern and Royal Canadian, bought three years ago for just this, was the most noted by visiting judges among the entire 1963 crop. Take it as you may, though you may cross with certain aims and should, you may never know what the outcome will be (that is the most intriguing thing about the business)—but one thing is sure: the hybridizers will always be looking and working for what *is not* and having a great deal of work which he will dismiss as great fun in the search.

I am not nearly so scientific a hybridizer as some, for I refuse not to have fun in growing flowers. The first thing I had to learn is perhaps the first that all have to learn; we don't have to grow every flower there is to have a good enough collection to hybridize. This is expensive, to grow so many, and the same money or even much less can well be spent on fewer varieties recommended by experienced hybridizers who have already made their mistakes and can offer us a shortcut to quality. Tell Muhlestein, for instance, is an experienced grower and hybridizer and an upright man to boot; his hybridizing notes and varietal comments have been my guide, as well as the catalog notes,

the bulletin articles, and personal advice from other hybridizers, and judges' comments in person and in written bulletin articles. We are unusually blessed to have in Region 4 such a flock of avid and conscientious judges whose candid comments are reliable and serve as excellent guides to purchases for our gardens; we do not have to learn by painful expense the certain irises are poor breeders or *poor-period!* By reading and conference and by seeing in others' gardens the results of certain crosses, we may "stand on the shoulders" of others who have already tried the crosses we may seek to make. It is poor economy to repeat these in most cases; it is good sense to use the available products of our forbears, even at a little expense; this may in the long run be cheaper, and it is certainly a time-saver.

If you are more discriminating than I, you may save even more money, buying only those that carry the factors you wish to use. Careful study of the good hybridizers' catalogues is an education for the hybridizer; hybridizers are usually generous people and do share their wealth of knowledge with the student. One soon learns to follow the pedigrees of the new irises with the interest of the dog fancier and to choose from the knowledge of these and with the familiarity with their forbears. Certain varieties breed lace, like Tell's proved GRAY LACE, for instance, and one's knowledge of its parents (Queen's Lace x Lime-light) would not make this fact a surprising discovery. A little study would lead one to surmise that laced flowers in yellow or cream or even blue (since gray is a combination of so many colors) might result, and laced pinks would have a good chance to come forth. On the other hand, some hybridizers like the Knopfs have dared to do the usually not advisable—they have made "wild crosses" (Gray Lace with a red would be an example) and at last are putting out some of the most unusual irises on the market today; their KRAKATOA and the lively and completely unrivaled TENDERNESS are some examples. So, the field is wide open for the taking, but some sort of aim is best and surest of results, also more helpful to your followers.

To cross! It is a good idea to have the seedlings near the named irises to save walking—I'll say this right here. It is an excellent idea, too because one, whether he sets out to do so or not, usually establishes his own line of breeding that needs to be readily available for crossing, for it is new in this world and nowhere else to be had. I have, for

instance, a pink seedling that for all its help I would never introduce, though I have been urged to do so by competent judges; wherever I use this seedling I get fabulous pinks with a clarity of color I get nowhere else (it is from Maiden's Blush x ?) and has been saved and used ever since 1958 with good results—but the flower is not of good form to me, just a breeder. BUT it is a good one, and where else would I get it to use except in my own bed? And where else would I have its pretty children to use if not in my own seedling bed?

To prepare for the bloom season, I have a rectangular light wooden box in which I can place folded pieces of typing paper to hold anthers; these stored anthers need no special care except dryness and are a real convenience, so that one may easily cross two flowers when only one of them is in bloom. Each, of course, is marked. I use tweezers to remove the anthers, tweezers carried about the neck on a string always handy at bloom time. I do brush all three stigmatic lips with the anther and mark the cross. In marking I have found green plastic tags the most reliable and sure to remain legible. All crosses on one stalk may be marked on the one tag in this manner: 1—Cherry Pink (the mother) (first bloom, the left one in the socket) x Picture Bouquet—and so on down the stalk. Some mark each bloom or record each in a little book, and this is very scientific, I suppose, but too much work and no FUN. I seldom lose track of a cross—and if I do, I just remember that the ratio of really good irises is 1 in 1000!

I try to beat the pods to opening; that means I am gathering seeds about the middle of June—and I always harvest some off the ground, dears, for I always seem to miss some of them at the right time. I try to harvest unripe seeds (then, too, the daylilies run me a race at the crucial time), these I store in small paper bags on which I write the crosses (mother x father order), I store only the seeds of one cross to one bag, of course, unless I have repeated a cross, in which case I do not hesitate to store more than one—save that extra writing. I used to bother to hang these up to dry, but now I save this time by gathering dry seeds and packing them carefully in cardboard boxes with no lid under the shelter where there is good ventilation. Even if I guess wrong here and there, it is no matter for even molded iris seeds germinate! I never plant seeds before October any more. I did once; I still got no

germination until next spring and no better—so, I save this time in the busy growing season and the watering, too. I have good germination results, the very best coming when I plant the seeds in a sandy loam close together (they seem to germinate better with “company” in early October right out in the open where the winter can be just as morose as it wishes. Who cares? Not the irises—they thrive on the chill and show their green blades in early March. As I write this, March 16th, mine are about two inches high, for they really grow fast when they start. Three weeks ago not one was visible! These will have to be set in their gassed, well-fertilized beds no later than May to bloom well, and even then the field will have to be maintained another year to get full bloom; all simply will not bloom the first year, and I believe we should wait. CAROLINA ROYAL would never have been seen had I discarded all that did not bloom after the first season in 1958! I do not pet and pamper for I have too many seedlings and too many daylilies, but last summer was one when I lost by not having plenty of water available. I have found the only way I can possibly care for the number of seedlings I grow alone is to gas with methyl bromide and to fertilize well. I also take pains to build up the soil with compost, especially decayed cotton gin leavings.

One other lesson is difficult to learn: to throw away! One owes it to the iris-growing world, I believe, not to fill up with inferior irises and should throw away such—refuse even to give them away. Only a very few he should keep for further use, for only a few are really useful. One's only guide here is experience, courage, and the remembrance that it is seldom wise to keep any iris that is only a duplicate of one already on the market; this keeping only spells time and trouble and expense, all of which need to be used on the very few hopeful ones. These may be numbered, not named; an easy method is to start the selects (for instance, 1964 or 64-1, '64-2, etc.) writing the parentage on the tag used to label is a good idea; the same tag may also be used to record any crosses made on the seedling. No matter how promising, the seedling needs to be seen a second year to be proved and if possible in other climates. Still another year is desirable so that it may be seen on a two-year clump, which is the only real test. So, it is good to grow seedlings well and to feed so that they may bloom the first year if possible—then to select the wanted ones, line out these as soon after bloom-

ing season as possible (even with pods on is possible), and wait two years usually.

And there we are at the fully rounded circle! It takes so long to give the world a good New iris! Buy with care the best you can afford. Cross them carefully, and grow the babies carefully. Save all the time possible so that you can have your dream and some FUN, too. You will not always be disappointed if you keep on carefully!

COMMUNICATION

by H. H. Harned

Webster defines "Communication" as the giving and receiving of information and messages, taking the form of letters, phone calls, etc. However, there are many other meanings or definitions. To the iris grower and breeder this term can be and is defined as a sharing of ideas and information. For those who grow iris simply for their own pleasure and enjoyment communication may be unnecessary, even though they do want friends and neighbors to share in this enjoyment. To those desiring some change or improvement it becomes necessary to be better informed as to values, as to the ever changing picture through hybridization. The tall bearded iris today are quite different than those grown at the time of the formation of the American Iris Society in 1920. Actually this change was brought about more because of a getting-together of garden lovers, of those who were curious and those interested in genetics and whatever change might come through hybridization. In England and on the Continent of Europe the results of Bliss, Yeld and Cayeux were attracting attention because of the changes in color, size and form. This infectious enthusiasm was not long in reaching the United States, implemented by those forward looking pioneers who had organized our Society. To promote better and closer relations, to decide on standards for registering and naming varieties and to generally inform through published reports. That was the pic-

ture in 1920, it still is, only on a much larger and more extensive scale in 1964.

While it is true that these foreign introductions were the pioneers, ours were the ones that made possible the wide distribution, the need for cataloguing and a desire for a changed picture. Coming together in gardens and at shows our forward looking gardeners suggested methods, advanced theories and generally assisted in bringing about the evolution of the old garden flag into the modern tall bearded iris. New forms, new colors and much better substance all added to the garden picture.

Doubtless most of this came because of communication, getting together, reading reports, writing letters. "No man is an island" is as true when it comes to growing flowers as in life itself. To discuss, to suggest, to inform and to project ideas and ideals, if we are to be informed and get results. How else can we understand the need, the true picture as to what was, is now, and may be in the future? Most hobbies are like that. They can and will be enjoyed if we have interests in common, if we exchange, if we share with others . . . what we know, what we have, what we desire and what we think.

So we communicate. Through letters, through visits, through contacts of all kinds. The exchange of breeding material, pollen and seed all help, just as the exchange of ideas and ideals. One person plans and works in a given direction, having specific goals in mind. Someone else has a different idea or ideal and though he may use the same or similar material, employing other methods, so his results are different. Just as in the matter of a repeat cross, there is great variation, so also is this matter of same material, different methods conducive of different results. Getting together to discuss, to outline plans, to compare results and to project—this is communication in the highest sense.

We can and often do work alone, but it is a lonesome situation at best, one not conducive to real enjoyment. To know and to understand and to realize that much remains to be done, goals to strive for and be in touch—that's communication of the highest order. Let's COMMUNICATE.

TRY LITTLE IRIS FOR BIG RESULTS

by Veronica M. Quist

Reprinted from Empire State Iris Society *Newsleter*, May 1964.

Dwarf members of the iris family have a special appeal because their size is suitable for many kinds of landscaping. They range from the flowers of *Iris pumila*, a few inches high, to taller 15-inch species and hybrids. According to classifications of the American Iris Society, those under 10 inches are miniature dwarfs, and those from 10 to 15 inches are standard dwarfs.

The usefulness of these small irises is unlimited. They are effective in borders in front of tall irises and other perennials. They adapt themselves equally well to rock garden plantings and their gay colors are lovely against neutral colored stones. They may be used in narrow places along paths, or around a pool.

The smaller rhizomes multiply freely, so original plants increase and become more beautiful each year. Transplanting can be done from the end of bloom until late August. Like their tall relatives, these dwarf irises are best planted in a sunny spot where there is good drainage.

Hardy dwarf irises have been known for centuries and are found in many older gardens and farm yards. In a collector's garden one finds the newest introductions as well as tiny species used for breeding purposes and treasured for their rarity. Many have been brought from their native habitats to this country.

Because of increasing interest in miniature irises during recent years, newer and better ones have been developed. Hybridizers have improved flower forms and widened the range of colors in both miniature and standard groups. Many can be bought for a dollar or less, including cultivars such as CREAM TART, which produces a mass of bright yellow blossoms with a red spot on the falls, and CUP and SAUCER, mahogany red with almost horizontal falls.

BLAZON, rich red-purple with a bright gold beard; BARIA, soft yellow; FAIRY FLAX, light blue; TINY TREASURE, bright yellow; BUSTER BROWN, a two-toned brownish shade, and WHITONE, with white standards and yellows falls, are a few of the inexpensive cultivars. It is not difficult to visualize dainty little blossoms bearing descriptive

names such as INKY, PATH of GOLD, BLUE SPOT, BUTTERBALL, ROSY CARPET, LITTLE ROSY WINGS and EARLY SUNSHINE.

Among newer and slightly more expensive dwarfs are dusky-flowered JET PETITE, LITTLE JOE and LITTLE BLACKSMITH. A delightful one with white standards and purple falls is SPARKLING EYES. APRIL MORN is flax blue and four inches high. ANGEL EYES, white with blue spot; RED GEM, wine red; BRASSIE, brilliant golden yellow; GRAPE SPOT, cream with purple spot; BLUE DENIM, medium blue with deeper veins in the falls; DALE DENNIS, white with orchid markings. LILLIWHITE, pure white; LILLIPINKPUT, apricot pink, and TRUCE, minimums that have been fixed. By providing for affiliates, the A. I. S. Board has shown that its purposes can be carried out through separate organizations, including those admitting non-A.I.S. members.

Once we accept the fact of separate societies, we are in a better position to concentrate on the real problem of the degree of cooperation we wish to give A.I.S. in our efforts to carry out the similar purposes of both societies. We can more easily debate on their merits all questions dealing with our A.I.S. relationships when we realize that we are in control of our own ship.

PRAISE FOR NEWSCAST

EMPIRE STATE IRIS SOCIETY

Affiliated With The American Iris Society—Region Two

1 Fairview Avenue
Staten Island, N. Y.
August 3, 1964

Mr. Earl T. Browder
811 D. Pennsylvania Avenue
St. Albans, W. Va.

Dear Earl:

Among the several AIS Regional Newsletters that come to me, your *Newscast* is outstanding in the broadcasting of useful information to iris

growers. Congratulations. My own publication will doubtless benefit through your good influence. My present feeling is that I have been reluctant to publish anything that would seem competitive with the AIS Bulletin, so I have concentrated upon Regional society activities.

But there is a limit to patience. I have waited for years—at least ten, for a worthwhile article in the A.I.S Bulletin on the subject of weed control in iris beds through use of chemicals. Now, after all that waiting, you beat them to it. I crave permission to quote that article as freely as space may permit, in both ESIS Newsletter and the Re-blooming Iris Reporter. "Carlos Fleury" deserves a pat on the back, and I request that you tell him I said so, and that I hope that his USDA superiors will soon let him come out of hiding to receive his due praise. Bill Miller's article about soil tests is also excellent. Actually irisarians in general know practically nothing about the optimums for growth of bearded iris: PH, nutrients, day length, precipitation needs, temperature at various seasons, transplanting timing. I am happy at least one scientific researcher has the courage to get busy on this crop that nobody eats. It is a shame that it is necessary to do it under a pen name, but such is the state of affairs in a complex government.

I was recently pleased to learn that the U.S.D.A. workers at Beltsville are at work on restrictive measures for a constant foe of irises, the aphid—carrier of virus diseases. They are using aluminum foil and powder that they have found repulsive to them. This is a good beginning. Naturally, they are not using irises as guinea pigs. We do not eat them or smoke them, so no funds are available for iris research to my knowledge. I do not wish to appear sarcastic, but just disappointed that we progress so slowly in comparison to the farmers growing cash crops.

Cordially,

EDWIN RUNDLETT, Editor

LETTERS TO RVP AND EDITOR

August 6, 1964

Empire State Iris Society
1 Fairview Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10314

Dear Edwin:

Thank you for your nice letter of August 3, 1964. Most of us, it seems, respond to a pat on the back. But an awful lot of people don't seem to know it. And I often wonder why.

Feel perfectly free to use *Newsca* stories or excerpts as you find them helpful. If you care to give credits to *Newsca* it will, I am sure, be appreciated. I suppose you know that Tom Jacoby resigns as Editor with the July issue of *The Bulletin* and that Art Nelson becomes the new editor.

There is *so* much we do not know. I am hopeful that Region 4 continues to be a candle, and am sure it will be. Ours is a *good* Region, Edwin. I think one of the very best. So much must be expected from it.

Don't ever apologise for the Reblooming Iris Reporter. You are doing a good job. Were you at the Oklahoma City Convention—and did you hear John Wisters address at the closing banquet? If you did not then you missed the best speech I have listened to on the subject of irises. He spoke for a full half hour, entirely extemporaneously. The audience—some 800—sat with bated breath. You could have heard a pin drop any where at anytime.

He did not hesitate, neither did he pause. He quietly introduced us to the irises at the beginning of our knowledge of them and brought us to the present. Then asked “. . . and what of the iris of tomorrow . . .”? And answered the question as he thought it would be.

“. . . after the gamut of color and the oohing and aahing because the falls twist to the right instead of the left—then are we in Utopia? Ten hundred thousand times “NO”! Your children's children will know—not re-blooming irises but *ever*blooming irises and the coloration will exceed all the colors we now know. Nor will this end it!—

Generations yet to be will put color in the foliage—other generations will add such fragrance that a clump in bloom down in a corner of the lawn will fill the evening—or day—with a delightful odor to hearten the soul of man . . . ”.

I do wish I had a copy of the speech. It is probable I should remember as much of it as I can, type it and send it to him to check while he is yet there.

Bill Kelley and I just talked, and plan to organize a small caravan to see Raymond Smith's iris this fall. I hope we are able to.

Most of the success of *Newscast* belongs to our Editors. I will send a photo copy of your letter to Dr. Mitchell so he, too, is able to enjoy it. And will send a carbon copy of this letter so he will know my reply. Our fine contributor "Carlos Fleury" keeps his identity to himself. In all honesty I just don't know. Tho I do suspect. But mankind is better off if he deals only in his certain knowledge, so even my "suspect" had better be kept to myself.

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

From: Anne L. Lee, M.D.
709 Wainwright Bldg.
Norfolk, Va.

To: James M. Aultz
1010 Thirteenth Street
Huntington, W. Va. 25701

Saigon is mentioned in
the News.

Cygon on plants you'd
better use.

From: James M. Aultz
1010 Thirteenth Street
Huntington, W. Va. 25701

To: Anne "Doc" Lee
709 Wainwright Bldg.
Norfolk, Va.

Dear Anne "Doc" Lee:

Thanks for straightening me out on my terms. You see, chemicals scare me so, I can't even *spell* 'em correctly. Don't *know whether* Bud gave it to me straight or not—probably did—and Heaven only knows where my notes are *now* . . .

But, "I wish," said he, pensively, "*News*cast employed an *all-wise proof reader*, so that fools like me would not go on exposing their *ignorance* to 500 people, more or less. *My* iris manage to struggle along with nary a spray ever being applied. I'm too dum' to keep the nozzle clear for more than five minutes.

Anyhow, you read my review, at least *that* far, and know how much I admired both Bud Bennett and his garden.

My own garden will be either a real "vision of loveliness", next spring, or a truly "sorry sight", depending upon whether I complete all the work I've planned this year.

And how does *your* garden grow?

Sincerely,

Jim Aultz

Charlotte, North Carolina August 26th, 1964

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I was very much impressed in the nice Region 4 *Newscast* which we have just received. I hope that you received your copy of the NCIS Bulletin approximately the same time.

In your Editor's Page, I have noted with interest your use of Simazine. Last Spring I was very enthusiastic about the reports of Treflan—a pre-emergence spray which was highly advertised in the *Progressive Farmer*. I was not able to find this spray in Charlotte—although my daddy, who is still raising cotton, did find some and used it in a trial field this year with wonderful results. When we were preparing for re-setting of our iris, I tried again to find this spray. After checking with the County Agent, he told me that whereas Treflan was effective for cotton, that it would probably kill iris and daylilies.

After writing the Department of Agriculture in Raleigh, N. C., he (the County Agent) sent me a copy of a letter from that department in which they recommend the use of Simazine or Atrazine (both manufactured by Geigy). The only thing they did not tell me was the proportions to use. I was able to find out about Simazine and Atrazine at the local FCX in Charlotte, and they recommended that we use the Atrazine in preference to Simazine, as the former seemed to be a little improved over the latter. Instructions on both were set up for spraying behind planters, and designed for use on corn. There were no instructions as to use in small beds or tracts.

Experimenting and using educated guesses, my wife, my daddy and I, came up with a spray of five tablespoons of Atrazine per gallon of water applied with a pump spray. This was applied to the beds after the rhizomes had been re-set and the spray not trained directly on the rhizomes. This has given good results. In two or three beds, crabgrass and some wild turnips had already sprouted. In three days both of these pests were dying. We are unfortunate to have Johnson (LBJ) Grass which this spray will not touch, either from seeds or from their roots. Another pest, which seems to be drying up slowly is old bull-brier or bull-nettle, as we call it locally. I believe that this will eventually

kill this briar, which will be a blessing if it does, as it is hard to pull, especially when near plants, without getting stuck . . . So far, there does not seem to be any harm to iris. In fact most of the beds are showing growth.

The letter from the Department of Agriculture warned against the use of the spray directly on plants—either iris or daylilies. However, since the iris were doing so well, apparently, and since some of the daylily beds were getting weedy, I decided to try it on these established beds. I used it pretty heavily, and I suspect a little too near the daylily plants, as some of these are turning a little brown. I do not think that they will die outright as your strawberry bed did, but I am watching them with interest—and have not, yet, mentioned the fear of these dying to my wife. However, some of these daylily varieties go dormant in the fall, but this don't look like a normal dormancy. This I will have to watch.

Regarding the strawberries: I'm sure that I read also in the *Progressive Farmer* about a special pre-emergence spray or weed-killer designed especially for strawberries. I believe the trade name was Dacthal—although I'm not sure. I do know that there is one by that name, but am not sure of the purpose of that particular spray.

I am planning to do an article for the NCIS Spring Bulletin on the experiments with this pre-emergence spray. When writing the article for last Spring's issue, I was giving mostly the results of some reading and some advertising from the farm magazine.

So far, we are really pleased with the results of Atrazine. We used it quite heavily on the beds bordering the lawn—between the lawn and the raised bed—and it has evidence of controlling bermuda and other grasses that might creep from the lawn area onto the iris beds. This would be of great value in time saved weeding these particular beds—and would also keep a neater lawn line—I hope.

This field of using chemicals for weed control is an interesting one, and one in which I hope to do some study this Winter—if I have the time somewhere in between my activities. The salesman at the FCX seemed to have gone into the matter as much as anyone with whom I have talked. You probably have the brochure on the use of

Atrazine and Simazine which was put out by the manufacturer. If not, I think I have an extra copy which I would be glad to mail you.

Should you want to use the article on the Charlotte Iris Bench Show in your next issue of the *Newscastr*, you have the permission of the writer, Mrs. Partington. This article is entitled RIPPLING WATERS—QUEEN OF THE SHOW in the current NCIS Bulletin. Mrs. Partington said that she had no idea it would be of value outside North Carolina. If you think otherwise, you have permission to use that article.

I was glad to see Seville's and Nifong's articles in the *Newscastr*. Mrs. Nifong has had a rather serious operation and is in the Forsythe Memorial Hospital, Winston-Salem, N. C., but I understand that she is doing nicely.

If I can be of any help to you in getting out the *Newscastr*, I will at least try to keep you posted on articles which are coming to me and which I think might have interest to Region 4—some of the articles are designed especially for the NCIS—but I do hope some of them will at least have a larger scope.

Sincerely,

B. J. BROWN
R.F.D. 3, Box 327D
Charlotte, N. C. 28203

September 12, 1964

Dear Doc:

I think Chlordane sprayed on your beds right now will be the answer to your borer problem. The grubs are supposed to be hibernating in the ground right now and are supposed to come out as moths to fly in October. We've been using Chlordane for several years for moles, ants and Japanese beetles and it has been wonderfully effec-

tive on all three. An application is supposed to be good for two to three years.

If you use dust, be careful not to inhale it. And if you get it on you take a hot soapy bath immediately. The professors at V. P. I. use the spray and think it perfectly safe.

The Robin came in Thursday. It may have to take a couple weeks rest while I finish planting iris.

Sincerely,

HUNTER C. SLEDD

FANNIE'S CHATTER

Hello again! It's me. Just received and read my Region 4 *Newscast*. Isn't this a grand issue? Our thanks again to Dr. Mitchell and Rena. It gets better all the time. I have read it from "kiver to kiver" and even the "kiver."

I had to spend so much on this old house I call "Home" this year, I thought I could not buy iris nor daylillies this "go around"—but the *Newscast* had me "prambling" through all the catalogs this late to see what I could get. However, I must order immediately if'n I do order. Last year I did not get one of my orders until late October—that wasn't my fault—I had ordered earlier. Still don't know why it was *so* late coming. Anyway it was too late for my part of North Carolina. Then we had an early freeze in November and I don't think the iris have recovered yet—only about three bloomed at all—and they were only about a foot high and the increases on them are still very small. So, get orders in early and insist on July or August delivery if possible. Sometimes I have potted my July deliveries because of the heat—so I could watch them near the house—then later—in September—gently ease them into their permanent bed.

I did not get to visit gardens this year but did go to our auction at John Wilson's on July 11th. Was it good to see so many of our

iris folks! And they acted as if I was a long lost prodigal. Really made me feel good to know I had been missed. We had a grand time. Even Mr. and Mrs. Browder were there. Was wonderful to see him doing so well—and a crowd from Roanoke and our Rena from Salem—and bless her heart—she brought me a package which she “slipped” to me—containing Van Cliburn iris—which I had wanted some time ago. I think I saw it in her garden at the meeting in '62—when she did not have it to spare. She has a wonderful memory. Thanks again Rena. Just goes to show you what a wonderful gal we have coming in to be our R.V.P. And my thanks to others also—who have been so kind to me since I lost my “Eleanor.” Alice Bouldin tells me she hopes I will not *ever* love any one as much as I loved Eleanor. But why not! Alice herself has been wonderful to me—taking me places I otherwise couldn't have gone, and Ethel Helms, Ethel has named and registered one of her new daylilies for Eleanor—one of Eleanor's favorites. I am promised a guest plant of it—since we all loved daylilies almost as much as we did and do love iris.

I took to the iris auction a big box of sample daylilies which we spread out on a long table and they caused quite a flurry of interest. *Now* I know the American Hemerocallis Society folks will forgive me for calling their (our) hem meeting in Gastonia “A.I.S.” during the business session.

Well I was aiming to tell you about how the TV program turned out. They didn't show it on the date first planned—but did use it on Thursday, June 18th. Miss Stoker wrote me about it. Then, I almost forgot on the morning it was presented. I was busy piling up more packages in the greenhouse. I rushed in the house and turned the set on—and could hear myself talking before I could see the picture. Later they sent me a duplicate film of the program for a souvenir. So far I haven't had a projector to use with it. I wondered about sending it to Mickey to keep as part of our “History.”

The grass and weeds have just about got me! I think next year I will try all those weed and grass killers. I just can't keep up. The grand-children helped, and we spread newspapers and magazines all up and down—between the rows and piled the grass and weeds on

them—but still that grass poked out from under—and my daughter thinks my garden “looks a mess.”

Dear me! When I read the wonderful descriptions of such gardens as Esther Hillyer's and all those other beautiful places, I feel like an “old country clod-knocker” and wonder how I ever got into “Society!”

Looking back over this “Chatter”—I've just murdered the Queen's English. If'n my school teacher daughter sees this she will be embarrassed—'cause she *taught* English for eight years. So let me quit—before I do even worse. I know better. I just don't seem to try hard enough to speak and write correctly. Takes all the fun of chattering and scribbling to watch all the p's and q's. I'll be back. Love to all.

FANNIE

AUCTION TIME IS FUN TIME

by Joe Lynn

Members of the Blue Ridge Chapter, A.I.S., are fast discovering that auction time is really fun time, a time for good food and good fellowship.

The auction was held again this year at the home of Mrs. John McCoy. Clytie (as she is known to iris people) is a wonderful hostess and goes to no end of trouble to supply our every need. Again this year, as in the past, we had a wonderful covered dish luncheon. Not only are A.I.S. people wonderful friends, neighbors, and conversationalists, but also excellent cooks.

In two years, our auction and sale has changed in character, somewhat. From meager beginnings, a public sale held in a shopping center with approximately \$80.00 in sales, to a bang-up auction with sales amounting to \$517.55 this year. The Chapter again purchased good, new iris to be grown by the members. Some had good increase, some not so good, and a few were lost to winter damage. But over all, the

increase was surprisingly good. Everyone surely went away with some special purchase they had not expected to find.

R.V.P. Earl Browder always seems to manage to get one of our "pigs in a poke" and goes home happy for having been there. Bidding was spirited, but good, new iris did not bring the prices they should have. In some cases, iris with \$15.00 to \$20.00 catalog value brought prices of one third or less. However, as was mentioned earlier in this article, the total sale amounted to \$517.55 and we were well pleased.

Many excellent, new iris have been purchased from Melba Hamblin and are now growing in chapter members gardens. They will supply the bulk of our iris for next year's auction. Some you can expect to go "on the block" next year include: Christy Ann, Goodness, Wild Ginger, Diamond Cup, Orange Parade, and many others.

We plan to make our auction and sales bigger and better each year, so plan to join us next July. Save a few dollars and you can expect to get some fine bargains. It is always worth your time and effort to attend a good iris auction. At the 1965 Regional meeting I shall be able to give you the exact date for the 1965 auction, so look me up. I'll be there, camera and note book in hand. Hope to see you!

SLIDES FOR RENT

"Slide Collection of Norfolk Chapter, Region IV, A.I.S."

Excellent collection of slides showing gardens throughout the Region—Kelley, Lewisburg; Fowler, Silver Spring; and others, as well as Norfolk gardens, plus superior slides of the newest things, such as Skywatch, Winter Olympics, Sterling Silver, Flaming Heart, French Lace, and many more. An informative guide sheet will accompany the slides. They can be rented for \$4.00. Please allow ample time for mailing. For further information write: Ronald Harris, 3592 North Ingle-side Drive, Norfolk."

NORFOLK CHAPTER FALL MEETING

Mickey Kirby

Threatening gales of Hurricane "Gladys" did not dampen the enthusiasm of Irisarians for the Norfolk Chapter meeting on September 21 at Norfolk Savings & Loan Co., "Friendship Room."

Chapter President, Dr. Anne L. Lee opened the meeting with the reading of an inspirational poem. She introduced our guest, Mrs. W. W. Ballard, Sr., of St. Albans, W. Va., and a new member, Mrs. Ray T. Hux.

Mr. Ronald Harris was commended for the success of the rhizome auction held on July 19 at the garden of Mrs. T. B. Holland and all who participated received gracious thanks. The Chapter voted to contribute \$130.00 toward regional expense of *Newscast*. A "bigger and better" auction will be held next July with Ronnie Harris assigned as chairman.

Stimulation of iris interest in the search for new members was freely discussed. It was suggested that gardens be opened to the public on certain days during bloom season, with a small fee charged as a fund raising project. Mrs. Robert L. Munn will present a plan for the project at the January meeting.

To indicate support and participation in the Christmas Show of the Federation of Garden Clubs of Norfolk and vicinity, members voted to purchase a one-fourth page advertisement in the Souvenir program.

Plans were made to assemble a slide collection for rental to regional chapters. Details outlined elsewhere in *Newscast*.

It was announced that Mickey Kirby's name has been placed on the Speaker's List of Norfolk Federation of Garden Clubs. When slide programs are scheduled, Mrs. Weldon Ballard will participate. With more than 160 garden clubs in the vicinity, stimulated interest in growing modern iris should result in added memberships.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Harris will entertain the group with a Halloween party—each member to appear wearing a costume representing a named iris. Best costume will receive a 1964 introduction as a prize.

I REMEMBER - - - GREIG LAPHAM

It seems so very many years ago that a man walked into my office, introduced himself as Harold Harned, and demanded to know what I thought of red irises, their breeders, and their methods. I fear I somewhat exploded, and to soothe his ruffled feathers invited him to my home to see how they were growing there. If I recall, it was in late June.

Harold (for by that time H. H. Harned was "Harold") assured me that I was wrong about my general condemnation of the red irises, their breeders and their methods. He called to mind many "greats" in the field, among them being E. G. Lapham, of Elkhart, Indiana. Harold left for his plane with the promise we would visit him in Oakland.

Promises are made to be kept (as he reminded me many times!) and that fall found us in Oakland as guests of the Harneds, whom we found to be gracious and charming hosts and very wise in the ways of the irises.

While there, he telephoned Greig Lapman in Elkhart, enjoyed a personal conversation, and concluded with (to my great surprise) "and now I will put a man on the phone I have written to you about. He is a heathen as concerns red irises and needs to be educated. Do the best you can with him"—and handed me the phone.

I stuttered, I sputtered, and I yammered. Greig Lapham listened, patiently and quietly. I ran on and on and on. Red irises *were not* red. They burned. They had poor substance. They were small. They were short. These, and other, indictments I made. Oddly enough he agreed to most of them, then asked if I knew of the effort that had gone into their breeding. I did not but I thought—many things. In the end he suggested that I write him about my "gripes."

I did, and he replied. It started a series of letters that were to number hundreds and that led to lasting and an undying friendship. Naturally, I was invited out, and as naturally I went—as a guest of the Laphams in The Little Brown House at 1003 Strong, in Elkhart.

He met me at the airport. I knew him at once by the kindly twinkle of his eyes and the questing expectancy of his countenance. We shook hands, and our hands clung together for much longer than the normal handshake. Why? I yet ask myself why. I do not know.

I was one of the family. We ate hamburgers at home to save time for talking, and because they were so good. We talked. He quietly guided me over twenty-five years of trying to breed "the" red iris. He showed me book after book of crosses, and after each cross the reason *why*. He would pursue a line of inbreeding to the point the better qualities were on the wane, then describe accurately the results and go to bring in new "blood," again carefully listing the reasons why.

The years fell away, and I could see in him the intense drive that had been Greig Lapham. I understood how he took over the management of a very small business and built it to a leader in its field. He did it because the word "failure" was not a word he knew.

I took notes. I listened. He took me to the "iris plantation," and we sat and rested while Charlie Wise talked, quietly. Tho tersely, as though words were valuable things. I smile, even now, as I recall his story of the first year he "fired the field." It meant, simply, that on a day in very early spring when old weeds were dry and a gentle wind blew Charlie set fire to the weeds, then went away. Naturally, Greig *would* come over about the time the fire was well under way. With no Charlie to be found he all but tore the "plantation" apart!

So that night more talk, with a better understanding, for I was beginning to have more knowledge of the man and his work. Early in my visit he had mentioned Paul Cook, and somehow the name continued to come into our conversation more often. It was perhaps about nine o'clock that evening when he leaned back in his chair and said "—and so I have concluded that *the* red iris will come from the efforts of Paul Cook. We will visit him tomorrow in Bluffton."

On the morrow we went to Bluffton, and Paul Cook's. These two men were as far apart as are the ends of the earth, yet were as close as twins. It was Paul Cook who would use no pesticide, lest one of his

feathered friends eat the poisoned bug and in itself be harmed by the poison. It was he who carefully stored dead iris foliage in neat piles until spring time when they were gathered and burned.

Paul Cook. A quiet man of few words yet with a twinkle in his eyes that spoke on and on. We sat in his living room, and tried to put the "red crown" on him. He would not have it so. And I was permitted to hear two truly great men run from a glory novices would have given half a lifetime for.

We went over the fields. All were as clean as the first breath of spring. Surprisingly, I found several irises in bloom (mid September) both at Paul Cooks and at Greig's "plantation." Both *were* interested in them, but were of the opinion it would take a long time for the remontants to catch up with the present once-a-season bloomers, though to both it was a possibility.

I returned home. I had to, though it was difficult to leave. Tears blurred my eyes as I gave "Mom Lapham" a goodbye hug, and again an hour or so later when the last boarding call for my plane was announced and Greig said, "I have gone as far with you as I can. For now, God speed."

My files bulge with letters and with crossing notes and with family trees. In my garden are many of Greig's irises that are under number, to be done with as I please.

Greig has gone to join his fathers. And again my eyes are blurred as I call to memory a man with a "passion for red," and who gave us many red irises. Amicus, Town Talk, Home Fires, Pace Maker, Red Gleam, Yelm (that is a result of the best of Paul Cook's lines by the best of Greig's,) Christabel, Jerry, and on and on and on. Not to mention one of the finest of our pastel pinks, Heartbeat.

It was my pleasure to know Greig Lapham, a pleasure I have tried to share with you. I hope I have helped you to know the man. I have tried.

I do not know what my own future holds for me. I wish I could assure you that from my notes and with Greig's irises I *will* produce a red iris for him. I can only promise to do my best. I do so promise.

Again my eyes are filled with tears, and with tears running down my cheeks, I cry aloud, "Greig, Greig Lapham, hail! Hail, and farewell."

EARL T. BROWDER

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER MEETS

Rena Frantz

The annual fall meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter was held on Sunday, October 4th, at the home of Jim and Martha Davidson at Rockbridge Baths. We had hoped to have a large attendance at this meeting but rain started before daylight, the fog settled in the valleys and clouds enveloped the mountain tops. A hearty dozen or more of the Roanoke, Lexington, Buena Vista falks came, along with Bill Kelley of the Southern West Virginia Chapter.

After a marvelous luncheon, we settled down for a short business meeting followed by a showing of Fred Stephenson's slides and a drizzly ramble over the beautiful hillside that forms the extensive garden of the Davidsons. Since Martha and Jim are orchid enthusiasts and have a greenhouse full of them, seeing these beauties was quite a treat.

Officers were elected for 1965 as follows:

Chapter Chairman	Joe Lynn
Vice-Chairman	Fred Stephenson
Sec'y-Treas.	Mildred Trent
Parliamentarian	Frances Brown

As retiring Chapter Chairman, I was happy to report that our membership has more than doubled during my term in office and that the Chapter is on a sound financial basis. We are now able to finance the purchase of iris for our auctions and have paid back to the Region a loan which was made last year for that purpose.

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