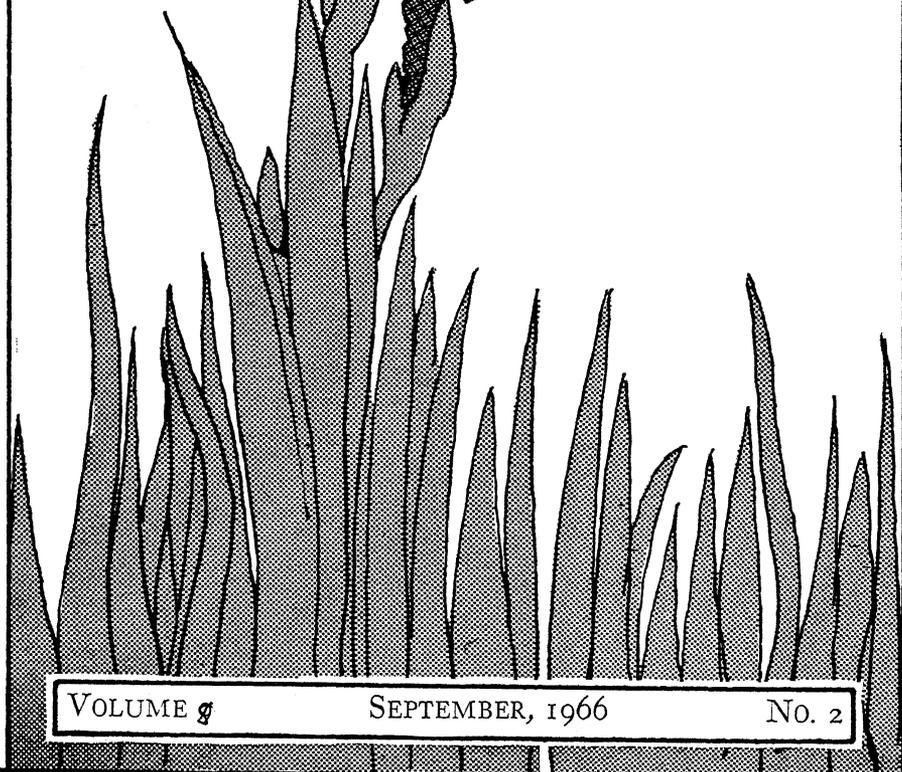


AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

# REGION



4  
NEWS  
CAST



VOLUME 7

SEPTEMBER, 1966

NO. 2



## AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, REGION 4

Maryland—N. Carolina—Virginia—West Va.—Dist. of Columbia

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3540 Windsor Road  
Roanoke, Va.

#### MEMBERSHIP

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2704 Tidewater Dr.  
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1401 Alabama Ave., Durham, N. C.

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Box 323, Buena Vista, Va.

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3505 White Chapel Road  
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330 Walser Rd.  
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# LUCKY ELEVEN — NORFOLK '67

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C. & P. Chapter .....	
Central W. Va. Chapter .....	Roberta McMullin
Greenbrier Chapter .....	Frances Patterson

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## R. V. P.'s MESSAGE

I can't say much for the Iris season in Region 4 this year but I can say that those who grow them are the same warm, friendly people, and just as much fun as in former years. I suppose almost all of you were affected in some way by the late freeze.

Me? Just imagine a frustrated female out in the 27 degree early dawn trying to wash the ice off a flag patch with a hose frozen solid and you can get the picture. Thankfully, the plants themselves weren't injured and I actually had some very good late bloom. However, trouble was not at an end. If there was any rain in June and July, it didn't fall on "Frantz's Flagpatch" (re-christened old "Dry Gulch").

The Regional Meeting at Greensboro was the finest ever. (I keep telling you backsliders you don't know what you're missing.) If our National President can come from Illinois and our National Second Vice-President can come from Tennessee, surely it wouldn't hurt you folks to come a couple of hundred miles. We not only had illustrious guests but the Tar Heels made us feel very much wanted and very much at home. The Judges' Training School, conducted by Bill Bledsoe, went off without a hitch and those attending were pleased and interested. Bill later conducted the training session on exhibition judging at the National Convention and made a lasting impression on everybody present. The guy is good — really good — and we need a lot more like him, especially since we finally seem to be getting somewhere with judges' training both nationally and on the regional level. We have to brag that Fred Stephenson's program is being accepted almost in its entirety in several regions. By the way, if you can't find Fred's report in this issue of Newscast, just look on page 47 of the A. I. S. Bulletin for July, 1966. Nothing shy and retiring about Region 4!

The National meeting at Newark was small but quite nice. The gardens along the coast were late and full of buds but, when we went inland to Dr. Knocke's, the Leavitt's and Betty and Ira Wood's, the bloom was just about peak. Saw several fine seedlings to vote on for an H. C. and a goodly number of the new

introductions, among them, Frances Brown's MISS VIRGINIA, tall and stately against a rail fence in Dr. Knocke's garden and receiving quite a lot of admiration. I won't go into varietal comments because you will find plenty elsewhere in this issue.

Will end with a few "Please dos":

Please do beat the bushes for good new members. Rena Kizziar's latest report shows a loss of 7 memberships regionwise.

Please do take the time to be friendly and helpful to the newer members so we can keep them.

Please do send in your vote when you receive your ballot for officers and recommendations for changes in the by-laws.

Please do keep on sending articles for Newscast to Martha.

Please do think of your Historian, Jim Aultz, who would welcome any material for the scrapbook with open gluepot. Hope to see a lot of you at your fall meetings.

RENA

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### NEW MARKING PEN

Martha Davidson

Since I have been gardening I have tried all types of supposedly "permanent" marking pens, etc. for my labels only to have to go out and remark most of them in two or three months time. Frequently the ones that faced the sun faded first.

Finally, through our local hospital lab, I have found a marker that really stays put. It marks on anything—glass, wood, metal, painted surfaces and yes, my skin. However, it will come off with carbon tetrachloride, cleaning fluid.

The pen is Model—K. Marktex Tech-Pen.

The thick ink for it comes in a tube and is called Tech-Pen ink.

It is manufactured by Mark-Tex Corporation, 161 Coolidge Ave., Englewood, N. J.

With extra ink its cost is around \$7.00. Try it. I bet you will think it is worth it.

**ATTENTION!**

**ATTENTION!**

**ATTENTION!**

You will shortly receive a ballot for the election of your 1966-67 regional officers. The slate presented by the Nominating Committee and approved at the Regional Meeting in May is as follows:

R. V. P. .... Rena Frantz

Assistant R. V. P. .... Frank Sherrill

Secretary .... Roberta McMullin

Treasurer .... Bill Kelley

Parliamentarian .... Ethel Helms

Historian .... Jim Aultz

The following changes in the Bylaws of Region IV are recommended by the Bylaws Committee and the Regional Executive Board:

Article IV changed to read: Voting on Regional Officers will be done at the Annual Spring Meeting. Terms shall be for one year, to run concurrently with the National Officers.

Article X changed to read: Bylaws may be amended at Annual Meetings by a 2/3 majority vote provided previous notice has been given in writing to the membership.

**This is most important. Please vote when you receive your ballot.**

**LUCKY ELEVEN — NORFOLK '67**

**SPRING MEETING EXECUTIVE BOARD, REGION IV,  
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**

**Greensboro, North Carolina, May 6, 1966**

This was one of the best attended board meetings held. Two regional chairs and one chapter were not represented. In attendance were: Rena Frantz, R. V. P.; Earl T. Browder, Immediate Past R. V. P.; Roberta McMullin, Secretary; Frank Sherrill, Treasurer; Mrs. Craven Helms, Parliamentarian; Jim Aultz, Historian; Claude O'Brien, Special Advisor; Martha Davidson, Newscast Editor; Bill Kelley, Budget; Fred Stephenson, Judges Training; Clytie McCoy, Test Garden; Rena Kizziar, Membership; Joe Lynn, Auctions; Anne Lee, By-Laws; Warren McLaughlin, Greenbrier Chapter; Ellamay Hollis, C. and P. Chapter.

Other chapters represented by board members were Blue Ridge, Southern West Va., Norfolk, Western North Carolina, Eastern North Carolina, Central West Va.

After a lovely social dinner hour the meeting was called to order by the R. V. P., Rena Frantz, with a welcome to all and a very special welcome to our two guests of honor: Mr. Hubert Fischer, President of our American Iris Society, speaker for the banquet meeting and Mr. William T. Bledsoe, A. I. S. 2nd. Vice-President, who was instructor for Class I of our newly inaugurated Judges school. Our appreciation to both for giving time and effort to this, our regional meeting, was expressed and shown by unanimous accolade.

Mr. Fischer then told us he thought we, as a region, were doing a wonderful job — he liked the informality of our group, and that we would go places for we got along well together. He spoke of the interesting plans being made for the 1969 meeting in Milwaukee, which will be an anniversary meeting; and about some of the interesting letters which come to the central office and require answers. He told of the foreign letters he has received, particularly those which come from behind the Iron Curtain.

Upon recognition, Earl Browder, as Immediate Past R. V. P., still stresses "continuity". We must remember to keep the history

of our region alive, for which he asks that we keep sending the records of our meetings to our Historian.

Treasurer Frank Sherrill reports a balance of \$837.93 in the region treasury.

The Historian reports that he has had only two communications. Please write up your meetings and send these to him for the scrapbook. Each chapter should have a specially appointed reporter for this and the Newscast.

Newscast Editor apologized for the mix-up of page 1 in the last issue. The mistake was made by the printers getting hold of an old format (these are made up and held over for several issues). Some new officers expressed the thought that they had had a very short term in office. Martha says she still needs our support and our prayers. The use of special reporters was again emphasized. Keep the articles flowing in so we can have nice big issues of the Newscast.

After the report of the budget chairman, the board feels that this is still a worthwhile committee and asks that the chapters continue to attempt some contribution to the treasury, preferably as large as possible.

The Judges Training Chairman reports that a great deal of thanks and appreciation is due the members of the region and these are duly given. Fred expressed his thanks for the opportunity of opening the door; he feels that he has gotten much from it. He still sees some shortcomings — he welcomed criticism which will raise the standards further. He had a special thanks for his silent partner, his wife, for without her help he would not have been able to bring the school to its present position. The school was not quite self-supporting as he would have liked; only 32 out of the necessary 50 participants attended.

In future schools it will be emphasized that this training is not only for those who are primarily interested in becoming judges. Others in the region will benefit from the training received in ideas toward maintaining better gardens and producing better iris from hybridizing.

Bill Kelley made a motion that any deficit in the Judging School be borne by the region. This motion was seconded by Browder. Motion carried.

In her report as Test Garden Chairman, Clytie McCoy spoke of the tour to be made May 10 through 20. The garden has been sprayed and worked and another spraying will be given soon. The iris were not in bloom as yet, but a good bloom was expected.

The Membership chairman emphasizes the need of chapter membership chairmen. Let's keep ever mindful that the need is for members who will be workers and not just names to swell the lists.

A letter was read from our Robins Chairmen. Three robins are flying. They emphasize two points. A robin membership helps convert iris growing from a seasonal to year-round pleasure by sustaining interest, promoting new iris friendships and by free interchange of comment. They also help the new irisarians as well as the veteran. Will the area chairmen and experienced irisarians please encourage new members to get in touch with the Robins Chairmen about robin membership.

In accordance with discussion at the fall board meeting, the following changes in the Bylaws are recommended by the Bylaws Committee and the Regional Board: That Article IV be changed to read: Voting on regional officers will be done at the annual spring meeting. Terms shall be for one year, to run concurrently with the national officers. That Article X be changed to read: Bylaws may be amended at annual meetings by a 2/3 majority vote, provided previous notice has been given in writing to the membership.

These changes will be printed in the Newscast and the ballot will be sent to members under separate cover.

Anne Lee, in her chapter report told of the interest in the chapter and the different types of meetings held. Once again a Hallowe'en Party was held using iris as the motif in costumes and decorations. Green Spot was the winner this year; a niece of one of the members came as the dwarf iris.

Norfolk chapter then issued an invitation to the region to attend the 1967 Regional meeting in Norfolk. Invitation accepted. West Virginia will put its plans in mothballs until such time as they are needed.

Western North Carolina reports that they are working on their bylaws.

Eastern North Carolina was newly organized as of January 9, 1966. Five of their new members were part of the entertainment committee for this regional meeting. This chapter has initiated a get-acquainted robin among its members. There are three robins in flight and these will be rotated so as to reach all members.

Ellamay Hollis, representing C. & P. Chapter, told of their interesting meetings. Reverend Benbow, of the British Iris Society visited them on his way to Newark for the National Meeting.

As reported afore, Roberta McMullin says that Central W. Va. will put in mothballs such plans as have been made for the entertaining and tours in connection with your visit to West Virginia. Another year will give them a better chance to show you what small gardeners can do with our favorite flower. They are small but plan to show you a mighty time when you come that way.

Greenbrier Chapter reports a tour in May and a fall meeting in October. All regional members are cordially invited to attend any meeting held in this chapter. They are planning a fresh plant sale in May (21st). Iris are to be taken up and placed in baskets for sale in the town.

Southern West Virginia began another year with a luncheon meeting in the home of Jim Aultz. Eleven members were in attendance. Plans were made for their tour at Sunrise, where they maintain an iris garden. The chapter held its plant sale the fourth Saturday in July.

Auction dates for other chapters were reported by Joe Lynn; Blue Ridge will hold an auction on July 16th; C. & P. will sell on

June 26; Norfolk's date was not given; North Carolina will hold theirs the latter part of June.

We are in receipt of an answer to a letter sent thanking West Virginia University for the printing of the booklet "Iris Diseases and their Control in West Virginia." If copies were to be requested for all members a charge of 17¢ each would have to be made. BUT if individual members sent for the booklet it would be sent free of charge.

The meeting was then adjourned to join in the festivities of the social hour planned for the early arriving members of the region.

ROBERTA McMULLIN, Secretary

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**ANNUAL SPRING MEET, REGION IV,  
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
Towne Motor Lodge — Greensboro, N. C., May 7, 1966**

Once again the Region was regally entertained with a smorgasbord dinner. The special meeting rooms were tastefully decorated, with the tables radiating from the speakers' table, which was shaped as the top of a capital T. Members of the executive board occupied this table with several members at the edge tables. Lovely arrangements featuring iris were placed on all tables. These arrangements were made by several of the new members of the host chapter, the one on the speakers' table being made by a man, yet! Congratulations! They were lovely.

Following the lovely dinner, the meeting was opened by the invocation, offered by Fred Stephenson. Master of Ceremonies was Al Fischer, who extended the many thanks and words of appreciation to the committee members for their unselfish help, given in preparations of the entertainment and housing of the meeting. A warm welcome was given to the new members of the

region on the occasion of their first regional meeting, with a hope that they enjoy many more.

The meeting was then turned over to Rena Frantz, R. V. P., who spoke a few words of welcome. She then called for very short reports from all board members. A roll call was then made of all board members present.

Fred Stephenson read the report of the nominating committee with a recommendation that the slate of officers be accepted for vote by the members of the region:

R. V. P. ....	Rena Frantz
Asst. R. V. P. ....	Frank Sherrill
Secretary .....	Roberta McMullin
Treasurer .....	Bill Kelley
Parliamentarian .....	Ethel Helms
Historian .....	Jim Aultz

The R. V. P. called for further nominations to be made from the floor. There being none for any office, the nominations were closed. This report will be printed in Newscast and ballots sent to members for vote. **PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE** when you receive your ballot.

The registration committee reported that there were 89 reservations, one of our largest meetings.

Mr. Al Fischer introduced the speaker of the evening. While the name was the same the difference in persons was readily recognized. He hopes that some day he might be as well known an Mr. Hubert Fischer, our national society president.

Mr. Hubert Fischer, in his remarks said that we must always look forward to new adventures, but that it was also nice to be able to look backward upon fond memories. That was to be the theme of his talk to us. He wished to look back a little and bring forward some of the story of the American Iris Society and a lot about himself. He holds it a privilege and a responsibility to be the president of our society.

Flowers have always been a part of his life. His fondest memories are tied in with flowers, beginning with wild-flowers which he and his wife (before their marriage) brought back from their walks in the woods, filling a small backyard garden of his father's store.

Upon hearing of a noted speaker on flowers, they would travel all day to be able to hear this person. In their early days methods of travel were very slow and as they had no auto, trips had to be made by train and interurban cars, taking hours to get nowhere.

Feeling that they must have a place of their own, walks were taken in all directions until they found a three acre plot in a lovely setting. The house would bear no mention, but there would be plenty of space for their planned garden. To be owners of three acres of ground was foremost in their young minds.

They still traveled as much as they could to hear famous horticulturists and gardeners, meeting some of the early iris hybridizers and learning first hand of their introductions. The story becomes one of a fairyland picture, mentioning many of the early irises. Mother of Pearl, one of Grace Sturtevant's first introductions; Lord of June, Alcazar, and others. Memories of these and other early ones mentioned surely date your secretary, as these were in her first garden, too.

He then told of his early interest in the American Iris Society, his friendships with other members in the society. He told of his invitation to be judge at the Iris Gardens in Florence, Italy, describing in colorful words the manner of judging in that event. The judging takes a whole week, with each day's judgments put aside and a new day of judging the same iris over again. Then the results are tabulated and the winners chosen. All iris are judged under number, with no knowledge of nationality of the hybridizer, or other information. Each iris is judged solely on its own merits. These findings have been compiled under cover and are now available for purchase. Mr. Fischer recommended this as a volume every irisarian should want in his collection of iris media.

Mr. Fischer reports with amusement that all Europeans seem to think that all Americans are millionaires and can hop a plane at a moment's notice and help judge their shows. Wouldn't that be nice? Many invitations have come to Mr. Fischer, it is with regret that more of them can not be accepted. One can go only so many places as all society members pay their own way.

The speaker was so enthralling that your secretary listened so intently and failed to take any notes from this spot on. To really enjoy the banquet speakers one must attend in person. Reprints of spoken words can only give the hearer's version. You must hear for yourself. Plan to attend our next regional meeting in Norfolk in 1967.

ROBERTA McMULLIN, Secretary

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## NIGHTMARE—A TRUE STORY

Anne L. Lee

The weather man had predicted frost and possibly temperatures in the mid-twenties. The first miniature dwarfs were blooming, and the iris foliage looked its most beautiful, a glorious green without blemish. Oh, the trials of gardening! What will I find in the morning?

But sleep soon took me to cloud number nine. It was not a happy slumber.

I was wandering through the garden, and each time I touched an iris rhizome it felt like sticking your fingers in a bowl of jello. The slightest touch of the foliage collapsed it in a sad heap.

I woke up in cold perspiration. In the dim light of dawn I could just discern the outline of the iris bed as I tried to look out of the window. There they were, still standing, as were the boxes I had put over the miniature dwarfs. I gave a deep sigh of relief and climbed back into bed to catch another forty winks.

## EDITOR'S PAGE

Spring came late this year and it seemed like all of my garden cleaning and garden visiting sort of ganged up on me. At least, I have not had a minute when I wasn't either rushing off to see others gardens or working like a dog on my own before others saw it.

The Greensboro folks had some beautiful gardens to show us. They were groomed to perfection with many lovely iris in bloom and so many real good new ones in bud, (that wouldn't open for us), that it must have been gorgeous the next week. They entertained us royally. What they lacked in bloom was more than made up for in hospitality. Thanks, Greensboro, for a wonderful time!

The Roanoke gardens came through beautifully, in spite of a hard freeze, and our gardens in and near Lexington, where it is still colder, did real well. There was freeze damage in my garden which amounted to short stems and imperfect blooms on a dozen or so plants, while plants right beside them were perfect. The gardens on windy hillsides, like mine, had this type of damage, while gardens, in what would seem to be more protected places, had stalks really ruined by the freeze. Apparently the low lying gardens were in more of a frost pocket and we on the hillsides had better air drainage. Orchardists like hillsides for this reason. So maybe we are lucky to be on this cold and windy hillside — only last winter I wasn't so sure about that.

I will have to say that I enjoyed my own garden more this year than ever. What with newer and better iris than before and my husband's collection of a hundred or more varieties of peonies blooming with them . . . 'twas nice.

MARTHA G. DAVIDSON

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LUCKY ELEVEN — NORFOLK '67

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**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
**January 1, 1966 through June 30, 1966**

Chapter	Membership			Members		Net
	Family	Single	Total	Lost	New	
Blue Ridge	13	28	55	9	0	-9
C. & P.	8	81	97	6	3	-3
M.-Del.	6	16	28	1	2	1
Norfolk	12	36	60	7	3	-4
E. N. C.	20	43	83	2	8	6
W. N. C.	4	26	34	3	1	-2
C. W. Va.	6	23	35	2	2	-
Greenbrier	4	7	15	1	4	3
S. W. Va.	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total						
Membership	85	270	441	31	24	-7

**NEW MEMBERS**

**C. & P.:**

Mrs. V. P. Alexander, 101 Brooks Avenue, Gaithersburg, Md. 20760.

Lt. Col. Homer Currence, Ret., Rt. 2, Box 302, Manassas, Va. 22110.

Rev. G. Ernest Wunder, 6213 Johnnycake Road, Westview Park, Baltimore, Md. 21207.

**Marydel:**

Mrs. Jack Bowersox, Box 172, Trappe, Md. 21673.

Mrs. Velma E. Reeder, 238 Potomac St., Boonsboro, Md. 21713.

**Norfolk:**

Mrs. Nancy F. Aident, 140 Melrose Avenue, Hampton, Va.  
23369.

Mr. A. C. Anderson, Jr., Rt. 2, Box 320, Chesterfield, Va.  
23832.

Mr. Kenneth L. McCray, 2400 Capehart Road, Richmond,  
Va. 23229.

**E. N. C.:**

Mrs. James W. Garris, 1201 W. Main St., Williamston, N. C.  
27892.

Mrs. Paul F. Iddings, Rt. 1, Summerfield, N. C. 27406.

Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Lacy, 1903 Meadowview Road, Greensboro,  
N. C. 27403.

Mrs. Carlyle Manning, Rt. 1, Box 177, Jamesville, N. C. 27846.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry R. Smith, 1510 Rankin Road, Greensboro,  
N. C. 27405.

**W. N. C.**

Mrs. Clyde H. Goble, Rt. 6, Box 384, Lenoir, N. C. 28645.

**C. W. Va.**

Mr. B. J. Ismer, Central Station, Rt. 1, W. Va. 26340.

Mrs. Margaret M. Burns, Box 162, Masontown, W. Va.  
26542.

**Greenbrier**

Mrs. Russell Fleshman, Rural Route, Peterstown, W. Va.  
24963.

Mrs. George A. Patterson, Buckingham Acres Addition,  
Lewisburg, W. Va.

Mr. & Mrs. Fin Simms, Peterstown, W. Va. 24963.

**S. W. Va.**

Mr. Walter R. Hatfield, Rt. 1, Box 161, Barboursville, W. Va.  
25504.

## TAKE A BOW, CAROLINA!

Mickey Kirby

The Program Booklet said "Eastern North Carolina Chapter welcomes you with open arms." And They Did!

Gracious hospitality, attractive gardens, excellent accomodations and sunny weather made the 1966 Region 4 meeting memorable for more than a hundred A.I.S. members on May 6-7-8.

Mr. William T. Bledsoe taught a very comprehensive judges' training class on Friday which is reported elsewhere by the Chairman. In the evening the Regional Board met while early arrivals enjoyed a "Dutch Treat" dinner at the Towne House Motel. Greeting old frinds and meeting new ones always vies with Iris bloom at every meeting. Fellowship continued at the reception later. We heard a talk on "Embryo Culture" by Mr. Fred Stephenson.

The lobby "buzzed" early on Saturday morning as late arrivals registered and buses appeared to transport eager irisarians on the "Merry-go-Round" of garden tours.

A visit to Hubert and Frances Johnston's garden is a treat at any time of year. The setting is ideal in a wooded area planted with many interesting horticultural specimens. **SDB**, **Cutie**, white with blue striations, and **Little Sweetheart**, pure white, were blooming profusely. Frances is a Siberian fancier and early varieties were blooming. **Cool Valley**, greenish falls with lighter standards, very light yellow beard deepening in the throat, attracted many viewers along with the lovely Cassebeer **White Swirl**. **Summer Skies** is a delicate light blue, yellow on haft, blue standards and crests. There was evidence of exciting bloom to come. Newer varieties of tall bearded were in tight bud with such a profusion of interesting plant material, 45 minutes passed far too quickly.

The McKenzie Burnett garden is carefully planned in a beautiful setting. White pines "clipped and pinched back while young" (the man said) provided a fine evergreen background.

**Blue Tattoo** and **Fluted Haven** made nice clumps of color along with many older early varieties. New ones were still refusing to unfurl in the persistent cool weather.

Next stop was John and Ruth Wilson's garden. Another beautiful homesite with tall trees and the Iris beds arranged on a curving slope at the rear of the attractive house. Fine clumps of **Melodrama**, **Lute Song**, **Edenite**, **Whole Cloth**, **Changing World**, **Rippling Waters**, **Fluted Haven**, **Tres Bien** and **Esther Fay** provided a display of color. Not enough time to enjoy this restful garden as we were already late for lunch.

Mrs. H. L. Ledbetter deserves sincere thanks for the planning of the delicious luncheon at Calvary Methodist Church. Auctioneer John Wilson held a spirited bidding session on a non-introduced variety that shall remain nameless. Earl Browder was the "lucky" winner. Mrs. Fred G. Ward of Bayside, Va. won the advanced registration award—**Candlelight Bouquet**.

We were eager to visit Claude and Naomi O'Brien's new garden. They have done a masterful job in little more than a year and are to be commended. It is no small task to uproot home and garden, build a new house and relocate extensive plantings. Again many new ones were not cooperative due to the cold rainy weather during the previous week. Some gardens had frost earlier in the week. **Edenite**, **Whole Cloth**, **Pay Day**, **Bloomin' Fool** and **Utah Valley** were in nice clumps. Seedling #26-63, a very clean and clear lacy pink with red beard shows promise of something good. Naomi had a gathering of "fuzzy wuzzies" on an evergreen with a sign that read; "Let's go to the Iris patch, all they need is a family of borers". A huge bumble bee bore a sign: "First Hybridizer. Succeeded by Sir Michael Foster in 1890".

Nannie Paquet had made many changes in her country garden and it was fun to visit there again. **Irish Brogue**, **Helen Traubel** (gorgeous clump), **Esther Fay**, **Merry Lynn**, **Angels Dream**, **Royal Canadian** along with numerous older varieties provided a panorama of color.

The Ledbetter garden had an abundance of good horticulture in a well planned city garden. Siberian Irises and perennials

abounded. **Wind Shadows** is very different in coloring—mauve gray with brown hafts and a heavy dark amber beard—difficult to describe but delightful to view in the garden. Babson's beauties were awaiting later visitors.

The Banquet and Annual Business meeting was held at the Towne House at 6:30 PM. The tables were resplendent with artistic flower arrangements made by Mrs. Cherry Smith. After the business meeting, related elsewhere, we were privileged to have Mr. Hubert Fischer, President of A.I.S. as our guest speaker.

We extend sincere thanks to our beloved "O'B" and his willing workers for a well planned and executed Regional in 1966.

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### NEWARK REVISITED, '66

By Joe Lynn

In 1961 I attended my first National Convention of A.I.S. in Newark, New Jersey. There for the first time I met some of the outstanding members of Region 4. To mention a few: Mrs. Rena Frantz, our present R. V. P., Mrs. Frances Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Claude O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kelley and a host of others. So, in a manner of speaking, it was a sentimental return to visit Newark in '66. The old Robert Treat Hotel is gone, but a new Robert Treat stands on the old site, overlooking a lovely city park. As we entered the hotel on Sunday morning, we were greeted by many old and dear friends. We were happy to greet Earl and Goldie Browder since Newark had been my first contact with them.

Sunday afternoon found the irisarians anxious to load on the buses for the first garden which was that of Catherine Smith on Staten Island. The garden is one of the loveliest I have visited, But unfortunately, iris bloom was very scarce. Most iris folks

like other flowers as well, and the Lilacs and Azaleas were at peak bloom. As compensation for the lack of iris bloom, the Region 19 folks hurriedly arranged a bus trip across the new Verrazano Narrows Bridge from Staten Island to Brooklyn. The views from the bridge were breathtaking. On to Brooklyn, across the East River to Manhattan, through China-town, back through the Holland Tunnel and back to Newark.

From here on, I shall not try to give a blow-by-blow account of each garden visited, but try to tell you some of the outstanding iris on display. If I had to pick one iris that impressed me most, it would have to be Roy Brizendine's "Royalaire". It was growing to perfection in the garden of Ira and Betty Wood. The color is indescribable except to say it is a combination of gold, bronze and orange. I hurriedly ordered it.

In the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoffmeister, several things were impressive, I have never been particularly taken with the *Oncos* and *Arilbreds* but a large bed of them was putting on a marvelous show. I thought *Imam Salah* was excellent. A white seedling by Joe Gatty was quite impressive. Branching and bud count were excellent. This was seedling 60-11. Kieth Keppel's new 1966 introduction "Ninevah" was quite good, a rosy bronze color. Clark Cosgrove, an authority from California said that "Ninevah" blooms very heavily.

Another iris which impressed a large number of people was W. B. Schortman's "Echo One". It is a lively new yellow *plicata* with a white blaze and maroon veining in the falls. This one I labeled "Must have".

In the Charles Gray Garden there was an outstanding seedling of Dr. Fred Knocke, The number was K-52. It was a lovely *plicata* of the rococo type, only better. In the Cassebeer Garden I saw the Schreiner's "Crinoline" for the first time. A very impressive burgundy and white *Plicata*. In the Juhasz garden Catherine Smith's "Enigma" was blooming. A good red, with branching like I have never seen. If you were to show this iris in a flower show, you would have to take up the whole plant to get all the branches.

I must mention two of Bill Bledsoe's creations. Bill so ably led our judges training session at the regional meeting in Greensboro. Two of Bill's that were excellent were **Golden Opportunity** and **Monte Sano**.

One day on tour, Carrie and I enjoyed riding behind Maynard Knopf of California and Harry Randal of England. There was much good iris conversation and "Tom-Foolery". Several excellent things of Maynard's were seen in the Wood garden. A little onco named "**Pomo Chief**" drew many favorable remarks. His "**Hi Value**" has excellent form and branching. It is a white with delicate pink influence. It is on the order of Dave Hall's "**Blush Pink**" but the pink coloring is not as pronounced.

Many good old and new irises were blooming in the Presby Memorial Garden. There were far too many to write about, but I must mention Neva Sexton's big yellow seedling, 60-56. Neva tells me it will be introduced next year. The slide I took of it will be enjoyed many times until I see it blooming in my own "yard". I have never been overly fond of the brown irises until I got my first look at Schriener's "**Gingersnap**". I was much impressed with the cleanness of color for a brown. It was also excellent at Rena Frantz's this year.

In the Leavitt garden there were many impressive things, especially a Dubes-Young seedling, 60-5-3, an excellent light blue that melted you right down on your knees. I shall watch for introduction on this one. I also loved Georgia Hinkle's "**Southern Comfort**" in the creamy white class, and a blue white seedling by Mr. and Mrs. J. Torbett, numbered 1007. I do not know the Torbett's and have no idea where they live.

Finally, I should like to comment on irises seen in the Knocke Garden. I would be very remiss if I did not mention Frances Brown. Her seedlings and introductions were putting on a magnificent show in the Knocke Garden. I have Frances' seedling 60-102 B in my yard, but I've never seen it as good as in New Jersey. However Frances considers a sister seedling superior, and has introduced it as "**Ice Follies**" this year. It's an excellent cream colored flower. **Miss Virginia** was really putting on a

show, as was **Gentle Presence** and **Nature's Splendor**. I'm sure many of you saw these in Frances' garden this spring. Unfortunately, "**Dainty Ingalee**" wasn't in bloom. It is a late Flower and one we all should have to prolong our season. I am by no means clairvoyant, but I predict that in a few years irisarians all over the world will know the name "**Frances Brown**".

We saw Orville Fay's "**Golden Plunder**" in several gardens and it was very nice, but much too akin to "**Kingdom**" to have been introduced. I'll stick with "**Kingdom**" for awhile yet. Also in the Knocke Garden were Schreiner's new "**Cloud Capers**" ('66). "**Blue Petticoats**", and "**Parisian Blue**". Liked all of these. Also Dorothy Palmer's "**Golden Snow**". A creamy white with golden hafts.

Another Region Four hybridizer, Lloyd Zurbrigg had some of his introductions in the New Jersey gardens. I'm sorry to say they were either not blooming, or had finished blooming. I found Lloyd's excellent blue "**Beatrice Joynt**" in the Knocke Garden and the last bloom was "**Full Blown**". However, I grow it and consider it an excellent blue. I was hopeful of seeing Lloyd's new "**Bliss**" and "**Siam**" but I never did find them, although they were listed in the official convention program.

Now that I have started and about completed this article, I find I have one more person to write about. The convention was honored to have the Countess Flaminia Specht of Florence, Italy, along with her husband and daughter. Flaminia (as she prefers to be called) was one of the most charming people we have met in years. She is in charge of the international competitions in Florence. We got much first hand information about the iris-doings in her lovely country. She told us about the Italian children cutting their teeth on "orris root". Iris root is also used in the making of the famed Italian Chainti wine. Flaminia promised to send some of her Italian introductions for me to try here in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and I am anxiously awaiting their arrival.

Although the '66 convention was a small one (people wise) it was large on hospitality, fellowship, and bloom. I'm extremely happy that we revisited Newark in '66.

## IRIS HYBRIDIZING

W. D. Kelley

**Flower Structure.** Unlike other flowers, the tall bearded iris have the petals in two series. The three upright petals are the standards and the lower petals that arch up and over are the falls. Each fall has a prominent fuzzy beard. These parts are purely decorative, intended, no doubt, to attract insects for natural pollenization. The reproductive parts are inside the flower and consist of the style branches terminating with the stigmatic lip which in turn is crowned with the style crests. Nestled under the arched style branches in the anther. All of these flower parts emerge from the top of the perianth tube. At the bottom is the ovary which appears as an enlargement of the tube.

**Equipment is simple.** A pair of tweezers—a good supply of identification tags—and a note book. (Add to this small containers and a camel hair brush if you intend transporting pollen from one garden to another or if you wish to save pollen for a later date.)

**When to Hybridize.** In the morning of a clear day as the flower opens or shortly thereafter. As each iris stalk will have from three to sixteen blooms opening at different times, this affords a wide selection of dates.

**Parentage.** As a beginner select two iris having certain features pleasing to you and cross pollenate in the hope that the better qualities of each will be reflected in one or more of the seedlings. For the more dedicated hybridist, it is almost always a planned cross with each parent selected with a purpose. A color break is of little value unless form, substance, branching, hardiness and floriferousness are maintained or restored by future breeding. Once started you too will soon discover the good parents.

**Pollenization.** On the pollen (male) flower pull back the style-branch and with your tweezers carefully remove the anther to avoid dislodging the white pollen grains. Carry this anther to the iris selected to be the pod (female) parent. With one hand pull back the style crest and brush the pollen end of the anther

gently back and forth until the pollen grains are well distributed over the glistening stigma that appears in the crotch where the crests join the stigmatic lip. Cross both ways on selected plants to increase chances of success.

**Identification.** Be sure and label this cross before moving to the next one. This may be done with small string tags (Denison), marked with a weather-proof pencil or ink listing first the pod parent and then the pollen parent, i.e. "Snow Flurry x Chivalry." Attach this tag at the base of the ovary. Mating is rapid and usually within a week a successful cross will be evident by an enlargement or swelling of the ovary. No further records are necessary until the harvest when all crosses are entered into a record book.

**Seed Pods.** The ovary of a successful cross continues to swell or enlarge until it reaches the size of a hen egg. In about three months the green pod will ripen and the three segments will begin to open at the top. At this point gather the pods, open them and empty the white seed into a small paper bag. Put the identification tag in with the seed. A number of bags, with the tops open, can be stored in a shoe box. Keep in a warm dry place with good ventilation. Here the seed will turn brown and shrivel to a hard angular shape.

**Seed planting.** In October or November the seed should be planted outdoors. Many planting methods are used, but a simple one is to use soup cans (Campbell or Heintz makes no difference). With top removed, punch three or four holes in the bottom. Place gravel or fibrous spaghnum moss in the bottom for drainage purposes. With a good seed bed mixture of soil and sand fill and compress the material until it is approximately 3/4 inch from the top. Empty the seed from one bag (single cross) onto this surface and spread the seed uniformly into a single layer; cover with 3/4 inch of sifted soil moderately compacted. Identify the cross by inserting a metal or plastic marker containing the same information as on the original tag. Arrange cans in an ordinary seed flat. Select a sunny, but protected, spot in the garden and bury flat with the top of cans about 1/2 inch below surface. Fill the area with sand or fine soil and water throughly to settle

material in between and around cans. Continue filling and settling until level with top of cans. Cover entire area with 1/2 inch of sand or vermiculite.

**Seed Germination.** For best germination, it will be necessary to water the planting even in winter if the soil becomes dry. About April 1st water with one quart of steaming hot water per can to speed germination. In four to five weeks you should have seedlings appearing on the surface much like blades of grass.

**Transplanting Seedlings.** In the latter part of June or early July when the seedlings have reached a height of two to three inches they should be moved to growing beds. Here the spacing should be a minimum of six inches apart in rows 12 inches apart. Weed, feed and water and in eleven months most of the plantings will have their maiden bloom. The second year bloom is generally larger and better substantiated. From date of cross we have germination in one year, maiden bloom in two years and full bloom in three years.

**Objectives.** The new tetraploid tall bearded iris with their 48 chromozome count have unlimited possibilities offering to you a challenge in any direction you may wish to explore. It could be that elusive bright red, a Kelly-green, or a true orange—or maybe a delphinium blue beard on a pure white iris; improved form; more ruffling; better branching; increased fragrance; bitones; blends or maybe a pink amoena. Reblooming iris are a reality and ever-blooming iris are now on the horizon. Into these must be bred the wide color ranges of the “oncercs.” Also the form, texture, substance and ruffling. Within a decade the monthly iris will take a dominant place in the horticulture field. Consider the words of R. L. Sharp:—

Isn't it strange among princes and kings  
And men and money and minor things  
That common folks like you and me  
Are builders for Eternity.  
To each is given a bag of tools  
A shapeless mass and a book of rules.  
And each must fashion—'ere life has flown  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

# NEWS OF THE CHAPTERS

## NORFOLK CHAPTER

Mickey Kirby

Norfolk Chapter enjoyed a splendid program on *Spurias* at the spring meeting held on March 21. Our own knowledgeable Bill Allen traced the early history of *Spurias*, displayed a series of drawings depicting good and undesirable characteristics of the species. He showed an interesting slide collection beginning with older varieties and indicating improvements year by year as hybridizers become increasingly aware of the potentialities and beauty of the *Spurias*. If space permits, every Irisarian should grow at least a few clumps to give bloom after the Tall Bearded season. Culture is not difficult, they will grow in mediocre soil and are adaptable to varying temperatures. It usually takes a year or two for good establishment. They do not like to be divided often altho they increase rather rapidly.

Dr. Anne Lee, Chapter Chairman, announced that she had been asked to have our Chapter reconsider the 1967 Regional meeting, plans for which were cancelled at the January meeting. Mrs. Robert L. Munn moved that we support our Chairman in reconsideration and that we accept the Regional meeting for Norfolk vicinity in 1967. After discussion, motion carried. Norfolk will host the 1967 Region 4 meeting.

Auction date was set for Sunday, June 26 in the garden of Mrs. T. B. Holland.

We will not have a conducted tour this bloom season due to conflict with Region 4 meeting in Greensboro. Dr. Lee encouraged support of the Regional meeting as well as the National A. I. S. meeting in Newark.

Dr. Lee urged everyone to "garden visit" during bloom season and to invite interested friends—they might be new members!

The National Accredited Flower Show Judges Council will stage a flower show on April 30-May 1. Mrs. Munn is chairman of the show. All arrangement classes will be filled by judges but the

horticultural section is open to all gardeners. The schedule has extensive Iris classes. Mrs. Munn invited Irisarians to exhibit. Iris will be featured throughout the show. Dr. Anne Lee will display an Iris Educational Exhibit. Coming just a week ahead of peak bloom, the show should stimulate Iris interest.

During a short "funtime" we were highly amused by a showing of slides taken by Mrs. Weldon Ballard at the Halloween Costume party.

Before this gets into print, many of us will have been together at Greensboro and Newark—We hope! I'm ready NOW!

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## NORFOLK CHAPTER

Micky Kirby

"Rainbows" were everywhere in Tidewater during Iris season! Fourteen inches of snow and ten days of extreme cold in January must have given our gardens minerals, vitamins and Go-Go. Everything bloomed for everybody and we did not need to leave home to see the newest and finest.

The Ballard garden was outstandingly beautiful this year with many new beds bordered in red and white pansies and wide grassy paths to show off the latest varieties. Most of Chet Tompkins 1965 and 1966 introductions were blooming along with hundreds of other fine Iris. Only "Eenie, Meenie, Minie, Mo" could pick a favorite.

Delia Munn's garden was again a panorama of color. Guests from Ghio, Corlew and Keppel made a fine showing and will be on display for Regional meeting in 1967.

We enjoyed Dwarfs, Medians, Border and Oncobreds in Rena Kizziar's garden before the profuse tall bearded.

The charmer in the Upshur Wilson garden was **Christmas-time**—pure white, starchy, with a heavy Christmas red beard,

closed standards and excellent branching. Swahili is a dark lustrous beauty, red black with redbrown hafts and a heavy dark beard.

Space will not permit comment on the many fine Irises seen in our gardens. My notes are copious and varietal comment is tempting.

**Norfolk will be host for the 1967 Region 4 meeting.** After first deciding that we could not man the monumental tasks involved, the Iris "spoke their piece" and we could not ignore their appeal so Norfolk will host the 1967 Regional meeting! Our Chairman, Mrs. Robert L. Munn, is already at work plotting a real "Gangup" affair for May 11-12-13. Headquarters are confirmed at the new Lake Wright Motor Lodge where adequate facilities are available for all meetings. Mark your calendar now!

Norfolk Chapter was well represented at the Greensboro meeting. Dr. Anne Lee, Delia Munn, Mickey Kirby, Weldon Ballard, Bill Allen, Fred and Betty Ward, Rena Kizziar and Ronald Harris attended.

Dr. Lee, Bill Allen, Rena Kizziar and Mickey Kirby enjoyed the A.I.S. meeting at Newark.

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## MARYDEL CHAPTER

Mrs. Henry H. Purdy

Marydel Chapter has had four meetings and an auction during the last year. We have two new members who are active in our group.

We sent \$79.00 to the region and purchased irises for an auction in 1967. We plan no auction this year.

A bus trip to the Azalea Gardens in Norfolk in April was successfully sponsored by the chapter.

A set of by-laws for our Chapter has been accepted and a copy is enclosed with this report.

At the April meeting, we held an election of officers. The following slate was nominated and elected:

Chairman ..... Mrs. Robert Hatcherson  
Vice-Chairman ..... Mrs. Elton Bounds  
Secretary ..... Mrs. Margaret Dobson  
Treasurer ..... Mrs. Henry Purdy

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## NEWS FROM SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

Ruby Bledsoe

I haven't much to report as I did not visit many gardens in the Southern West Virginia area, however we did visit the garden of Jim Aultz, in Huntington and it is a dream garden.

Jim has used his own imagination to create a garden that looks like a picture in a magazine. He has blended his colors well and not only that, the companion plants were used to highlight every nook and corner. There were Coral Bells, Columbines, Painted Daisies and many more.

The Dogwood trees were very inviting on a hot afternoon. Jim is growing the MOHR varieties in a planting by themselves and they were SHOW OFF'S this season.

Yes, Jim, you have one of the nicest little gardens in these here hills.

Lyle and I did a slide show at the May meeting of the Milton Garden Club and it went over nicely. I am happy to report that the slides we made on the Greensboro tour turned out beautifully and the women enjoyed them so much. I would like to thank all the people who made our Greensboro trip an enjoyable one.

## LUNCHEON MEETING IS FIRST OF 1966 FOR SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Jim Aultz

The Southern West Virginia Chapter, Region 4, The American Iris Society, held its first meeting of 1966 on 16th April, in Huntington, West Virginia. Luncheon was served at noon to Mr. and Mrs. Earl T. Browder, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Poff, Mrs. J. B. Crozier, Mrs. Robert H. Mosby. Chapter Chairman, Jim Aultz was host to the group, at his home, on this occasion.

No program was planned. After luncheon, several important business matters came up for discussion. Mr. Frank Williams, chairman of the committee for planting and maintaining irises at "Sunrise" in Charleston, discussed the situation there with those present. It was decided to complete the planting on the second Saturday in July, with all the help that can be solicited from the membership to do the work. It was acknowledged that this project has tended to be the work of just a few persons, and as such is not truly representative of our Chapter.

Mr. Williams further suggested that our Chapter Iris Auction for 1966 be held at "Sunrise" this year. With publicity, it should prove both pleasant and profitable. Many good irises are available for auction, a poll of members present revealed. The Chapter might even attract some badly-needed newcomers to our membership at this time. The date for this event as planned is the third Saturday in July.

There will be more discussion on both "Sunrise" and our Auction, when the Chapter meets next month with our Vice-Chairman John Van Horn and Mrs. VanHorn at their home in Nitro, West Virginia, on May 14.

The Chapter By-Laws, revised in committee this spring, were read, amended, and approved by those present. Among items of general interest were the scheduling of six meetings a year, plus the Auction in July. The December meeting is intended to be purely a social one.

It was revealed at this time that the Regional Meeting will be held in Norfolk, Virginia in 1967, as originally announced in **News**cast.

Two new iris books were displayed but not reviewed due to the lateness of the hour. It was noted however, that both **The Iris Book**—Molly Price (D. Van Nostrand Co., N.Y.) and **IRIS: Goddess of the Garden** (Diversity Books, Kansas City, Missouri) are written with the average gardener in mind, and as such are worthwhile additions to the iris lover's library.

All present were urged to attend the Regional Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, on 7 May. A representative number from our Chapter are expected to be present.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned so that the six dwarf irises blooming in the Garden of the host might be examined. After that members departed for home, set on searching out Spring, which is rumored to be just around the corner.

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## CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Roberta McMullin

After adjusting to our surprise of being given the "honor" of the 1967 Regional Meeting from out of the blue, Central West Va. Chapter dug in its heels and began to work. As you know we cover a lot of territory, in fact, too much territory for a good working unit, but there are just a few of us concentrated in one spot, namely Parkersburg, W. Va. But few as we may be, we bravely began what we could do towards preparing for the group. Tour gardens were chosen, thought given to what iris we might have worthy of showing, and to how we could improve our gardens into show garden.

The job really seems unsurmountable, but we would make an honest effort. Roberta McMullin was appointed Meeting Chairman.

Then as a last minute reprieve, came word that Norfolk Chapter would like to continue with their original plans and host the Region in 1967. So our plans, such as they have become, will be placed in "moth balls" to be taken out when our turn comes again. We will be better prepared garden-wise at a later date, but our hospitality was working up to a "good boil".

We have really attempted to get the "outlanders" of our area to become more interested in helping, but as yet have had no response to our invitations. In the winter months the weather stops our travel and in the spring we are too busy in our yards to travel, so what are we to do? Does any one have any suggestions?

We try each meeting to have some interesting program about irises in general and several evenings of slides. Our members are building up a very creditable slide collection and we never tire of looking at them.

The past year we have alternated meetings between Parkersburg and Williamstown. Thought has been given to planning a picnic caravan towards a more centrally located spot in an effort to get a more representative group of area members to attend.

In early April Roberta McMullin, in the chapter's name, spoke on iris, historically and culturally, and gave a lovely slide show to a neighboring town garden club.

Our new Officers are Chairman, Charles Meyers; Vice-Chairman, Frank Burfield; Sec.-Treas., Roberta McMullin.

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## BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER GARDEN TOUR

Martha Davidson

A large group of Blue Ridge Chapter members and a good half dozen from the Greenbrier Chapter assembled in Rena

Frantz's garden on the morning of May 22nd for the start of the annual garden tour.

Rena's garden was full of bloom in spite of the fact that a hard freeze had cut it down only a few weeks before. There were many of the newer varieties that caught my eye—**Dancing Bride**, **Morning Breeze** and **Gingersnap** to name a few—and I could go on and on.

Next on the tour was our new Test Garden at the Veterans' Hospital in Salem. The iris were lovely and you could tell that those boys had really given them tender loving care. Not all the plants were in bloom, having been hurt some by the freeze, but those that were in bloom were handsome specimens. We were able to get a preview of our Auction iris as well as viewing our guest seedlings.

Frances Brown's garden was next and its usual beautiful self. She is a true horticulturist and her trees, shrubs, peonies and other perennials, as well as her many well grown iris, prove it. There were many of her own seedlings in bloom. One that she has introduced, **Gentle Presence**, I thought was particularly pretty. We had our picnic lunch under her lovely trees.

Next we visited the gardens of Clytie McCoy and Mabel Stephenson where we saw more pretty iris and had a delicious dessert and coffee.

Then on to Mildred Trent's garden, which keeps on growing enough to accommodate a few good new ones each year. She has many nice iris and well grown.

The next garden was Fred Stephenson's, which is a real beauty spot. Beautifully grown iris, as well as many other perennials, all laid out so artistically that they put on quite a show.

My time was running short and so I missed the garden of Frances Hicks, but all who saw it said she had good bloom on nicely grown iris to show them.

## FALL MEETING OF BLUERIDGE CHAPTER

The fall meeting of the Blueridge Chapter, A.I.S., will be held on Sunday, October 2, 1966, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lynn in Buena Vista, Virginia. The meeting will open with a Covered Dish-Picnic luncheon at 1:30 P.M. Drinks will be supplied by the Lynns. Election of officers will be held for the coming year. Present plans include a slide show of new iris seen at the national convention in Newark, New Jersey and Slides taken in the Gardens of Region 4. All Blueridge Chapter members are urged to keep this date in mind and attend the fall meeting. The Lynn's home is easy to reach. Follow these instructions: Coming from the South on U.S. 501 turn left at 2rd Street (blinker light) and go approximately three blocks to a dead end, turn left and start around Linden Circle. The Lynn's are the 3rd house on the right with a chain link fence.

We welcome Guests from other Chapters, So come and join us.

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## BLUERIDGE CHAPTER AUCTION

By Joe Lynn

The Blueridge Chapter held it's summer auction and sale on Saturday, July 16th, at the Home of Mrs. John McCoy in Roanoke. A delicious covered Dish Luncheon was enjoyed by those present. Although many of our members had conflicts on that date, we did as well as usual financially. Our sales amounted to about \$450.00 This year the chapter irises were grown at the regional test gardent at the Veterans Hospital in Salem. Increase was unusually good, and to keep from over-saturating the iris market, one of most varieties was put back to increase for next year. Again this year, the chapter will purchase new iris to be grown for next year's auction. From reports reaching me. most of the auctions were a big success this year and should provide the necessary money for our Newscast publication. Keep up the good work, plan ahead for next year and keep selling those "Flags".

## SUCH WAS MAY

May 1966 started out by having a good hard frost but my garden seemed to be lucky and, after careful review, showed no damage. From then on, things changed from fair to good—to FABULOUS.

Friday morning, May 6, we loaded the little green Rambler and headed for Greensboro to the Region 4, A.I.S. Convention. We took our time and enjoyed the trip on a very pleasant day. Arriving in Greensboro, we promptly got lost. Someone moved a couple of streets and Market Street was going the wrong way!

After registering, we had the pleasure of meeting Ed and Jeannie Garland from Richmond and the four of us took off to visit one of the gardens not on the regular bus trip. Mrs. Fuquay and her sister have a wonderful yard and we enjoyed meeting both of these lovely ladies.

The reception was fun. Even if what Fred Stephenson said was a little beyond me, I certainly enjoyed his talk.

The bus trip was wonderful and the yards were all beautiful. Everyone seemed to be having a marvelous time and my iris want list grew longer at each stop. The dinner at the church was delicious and more than enough to fill each and all. The banquet was really something. Sitting next to Mickey Kirby and across from Jeannie Price was an experience I will long remember. By and large, I would say it was a right successful get-together!

It was wonderful seeing and being again with such friends as Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien, the Al Fischers, Mrs. Munn, Betty Ward and so many other wonderful people. Rena Frantz never looked lovelier. We also met so many new friends and renewed acquaintances with old.

I am looking forward to even a greater time when we get to Norfolk in '67!

I visited a number of local gardens, including the beautiful yard of Ed Garland, and the fabulous collection of E. D. "Buck" Eddens.

The climax came, however, when I had the honor of having Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Zurbrigg visit my yard to look over my iris, as well as other flowers. As this was the first visit of a qualified judge, I felt quite honored. It is with fear, trembling and a quantity of butterflies in my stomach that I feel I must write and get a judge's opinion of my efforts. However, I doubt if anything would have made me happier or prouder than their visit.

So, all in all, May, 1966, was a month to go down in the books.

A P.S. to Rena Frantz and Jeannie Price, I still use the rose colored glasses and wouldn't trade them for a million!

CHARLEY REYNOLDS

P.S. May I add my little ditto to all of the above—I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the Convention and am already looking forward to next year's.

SUE REYNOLDS

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### FATHER OF THE YEAR

Martha Davidson

There was a nice article in the Greensboro Daily News paying tribute to one of our Fellow Irisarians, Allen J. Jinnette. He was named All-Round Father of the Year for 1966 by the Greensboro Merchants Association.

He raises a lot of irises and a lot of children. To be exact, nine of the latter and five hundred of the former.

Mr. Jinnette has been an employee of Burlington Industries in Greensboro for 29 years. He is an active worker in the Gethsemane Methodist Church, teaching a Sunday School class, is president of the Men's club and sings bass in the Choir. He also serves as a lay reader and is cubmaster of a Cub Scout pack. He has served on the school committee for nine years and is an active member of the P.T.A.

I understand that he purchased a bus to travel in when he takes the family along.

I'd say he is a very busy irisarian and public servant as well as a busy "Pop", and certainly deserves this honor.

## IRIS NOTES

by Ralph and Helen Lewis

This season was not a good one for North Carolina irisarians. Bloom was from seven to ten days late, which was no help to growers nor to either the Region IV meeting at Greensboro or the North Carolina Iris Society meeting at Graham the following Saturday. Hard winds, hard driving rain, winter damage to bloom, and a temperature drop from the 80s to below freezing in one night at about peak bloom, did not lead to maximum bloom. We did get a chance to find some that could really take it.

Seedlings, like every thing else, suffered, but we did see some nice ones. Claude O'Brien had a selection of blacks of really high quality both as to flower and branching. We hope he will name and introduce one or more. We need dark iris bred in this section to give more reliable performance. Naomi O'Brien had a group of equally fine pinks. We were pleased with three dark blue seedlings. We especially liked the following Powell seedlings: 65-90 a true orange, 66-15 a big ruffled yellow of fine form, 66-17 a tall blue from a **Whole Cloth—Carolina Royal** cross, 66-18 from the same cross, 66-10 a brilliant deep purple, 66-20 a fine pink with matching beard, and 66-24 a ruffled lilac.

**Beatrice Joynt** (Zurbrigg '65) A splendid medium blue. The flowers are excellently formed and strongly substantanced and borne on strong and well branched stems. Floriferous and an excellent performer. This is one to be proud of.

**Tar Heel** (Powell '64) This is a remarkably fine black. The form is excellent, as is substance. The falls show darker than the standards. Not only is this an excellent performer here but it has drawn most favorable comment on the Pacific Coast. **Tar Heel** has the ability to produce consistently fine seedlings and to transmit its good qualities.

**Irish Lullaby** (Moldovan '65) This big, finely formed and sturdily substantanced pink is most exciting. It is very floriferous, a good performer and a truly beautiful flower.

**Lovely Light** (Tompkins '64) A brilliant orange apricot flower that sports a brilliant tangerine beard. Standards are closed, falls broad and flaring. One of the many exciting new iris with orange coloring.

**Palisades** (Plough '64) A blend of orange and apricot. The standards are flushed pink and the falls are orange and saffron. Form and substance are good. Big and different.

**Flaming Heart** (Fay '62) A brilliant salmon pink color in a well formed, excellently substandard flower that shows a glazed finish. This is reported to be a good parent.

**Flashback** (Tompkins '64) A big, very yellow flower with a brown gold beard. Form is most satisfactory and substance very strong. To us this iris approached old gold in tone. It is a really nice addition to the garden.

**Silver Song** (Tompkins '63) A charming milky or silvery blue with a brilliant blue beard. We were most favorably impressed with this iris before its introduction and further observation has confirmed our good opinion.

**Claudia Rene** (Gaulter '63) A self of orchid pink tone with brown shoulders. Big, sturdy and well formed, it is making a fine reputation for itself. Good as a parent as well as being a fine garden iris.

**Mandy Morse** (Spofford) A big medium blue Siberian with very rounded falls and little of the white blaze generally seen. We found this a really exciting Siberian.

**Son of Satan** (Wickersham '63) A big plum red that caught our attention as a seedling. We still think it is beautiful and different.

**One Desire** (Shoop '60) A big and beautiful true pink with a matching beard, this is outstanding.

**Bermuda High** (Tompkins '64) One of Chet's finest reds—big, tall, and a good performer. Highly resistant to sunburn and fading.

**Crystal River** (Plough '64) A very light and very blue flower that is excellent in every respect. One of the first iris we ordered this year.

**Camelot Rose** (Tompkins '65) Big and very ruffled. The tight standards are a silvery orchid or violet and the falls are burgandy red. We saw this in a real wind storm and were amazed at its ability to take it.

**Brigantine** (Tompkins '66) To us this is a brilliant violet in color. It is big, stylish and strong and an all around fine flower. We had it under seedling number

**Tidelands** (Buttrick '63) A dark blue that impressed us with its all around excellence and clarity of color when we saw it last year at Steve Moldovan's was equally impressive in our own garden this year. This is a fine iris.

**Imperial Lilac** (Schreiner '63) Another big flower with fine form and substance, **Imperial Lilac** is a beautiful silvery lilac color that certainly makes an exciting picture in the garden.

**Marie Phillips** (Muhlestein '63) One of Tell's all time finest, this smooth clean violet iris is, in our opinion, a close approach to perfection. Simply beautiful.

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