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OUR R. V. P.'s MESSAGE

As we go to press, the March winds are really howling and it seems that spring is very long in coming. Still, by the calendar, iris season will be here in a few short weeks.

March is always a month of mixed emotions when we can hardly wait until the iris bloom but are staggered by the amount of work that has to be done. This year, I am almost ready to throw in the towel and admit defeat before I start. There's no doubt that I will get the garden in order, but the pressure of extra activities to which I am committed, plus radical changes in my personal life create a situation where something has to give.

At times, the decisions we must make between the important and the necessary are both frustrating and heartbreaking, particularly when no matter what decision we make, we are letting somebody down. I have spent the past month straddling the fence and a more precarious, uncomfortable position I've never been in before. It all boils down to the fact that it now seems that I cannot possibly be with you for the Regional Meeting at Norfolk. I have talked to your Assistant R. V. P., Frank Sherrill, and he has promised to act for me at this meeting. It is certainly unfair to him, but, he has been most gracious and understanding. In order that the necessary business may be carried on and final action taken, Mr. Sherrill will be officially designated as Acting R. V. P.

I know that under the capable direction of the Norfolk Chapter, the meeting will be a treat. Our Judging School is in excellent hands and with Frank Sherrill to take my place, I will hardly be missed. The only trouble is, I shall miss you.

Please do go to the meeting and enjoy the wonderful things the Norfolk Chapter has planned for you. I will be thinking of you and hoping to see many of you in my own garden a week or two later.

RENA

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 Mrs. Ralph M. Hicks, Box 8124, Asheville, N. C. 28804
 Mr. Hugo F. Huff, 801 Morgans Lane, Hendersonville, N. C. 28739
 Mrs. Troy Karriker, Rt. 3, Box 33, Kannapolis, N. C. 28081
 Mr. Robert H. McElhany, 201 Mountain Street, Black Mountain N. C.
 Mrs. Judith McLeon, Box 872, Rt. 7, Asheville, N. C. 28803
 Mrs. W. B. Melnick, Rt. 5, Box 532, Asheville, N. C. 28803
 Mr. and Mrs. Davis H. Mills, 3007 Kanuga Road, Hendersonville. N. C.

Mrs. Wade Montfomery, 5500 Sardis Road, Charlottesville, N. C. 28211
Mrs. Louise D. Sellers, 308 Threadgill Street, Wadesboro, N. C. 28170
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sherrill, 410 Woodlawn Street, Davidson, N. C. 28036
Mrs. Paul Stimson, 802 Kentucky Street, Kannapolis, N. C. 28081
Mrs. John F. Stith, 1020 Leigh Avenue, Charlotte, N. C. 28205
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Tadlock, Rt. 1, Marshville, N. C.
Mrs. Arthur W. Thompson, Rt. 5, Box 400, Hendersonville, N. C. 28739
Mrs. J. Dixon Watkins, 7 Redfern Street, Asheville, N. C. 28806
Mrs. Guy Whicker, 303 Idlewood Drive, Kannapolis, N. C. 28081
Mr. James W. Whitener, 3037 1st Avenue, N. W., Hickory, N. C. 28601

C. W. VA. CHAPTER

Mrs. Geneva Ashwell, Rt. 1, Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101
Mrs. Charles L. Brown, Rt. 3, Parkersburg, W. Va. 26103
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Burfield, 910—34th Street, Parkersburg,
W. Va. 26104
Mrs. Margaret M. Burns, Box 162, Masontown, W. Va. 26542
Mrs. Sara M. Cammer, Rt. 1, Box 134, Fairmont, W. Va. 26554
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Campbell, 231 Campbell Lane, Weirton, W. Va. 26062
Mrs. Annette Carr, Rt. 1, Box 285, Morgantown, W. Va. 26502
Mrs. Logan Carroll, Rt. 2, Box 151, Fairmont, W. Va. 26554
Miss Lydia Davidson, 603 - 33rd Street, Parkersburg, W. Va. 26102
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Berkley Davis, 1004 Bell Run Road, Fairmont,
W. Va. 26554
Dr. Claude J. Davis, 733 Augusta Avenue, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
Mr. Oakley J. Hopkins, 164 Chancery Row, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
Mr. B. J. Ismer, Central Station, Rt. 1, W. Va. 26340
Mr. and Mrs. Orval W. Koon, 917 Main Street, Wheeling, W. Va.
Mr. C. C. Liggett, 104 Smith Street, Weirton, W. Va. 26062
Mrs. J. R. McCracken, Rt. 2, Box 72, Walker, W. Va. 26180
Miss Madge McDaniel, Box 212, Anmoore, W. Va. 26323
Mrs. Roberta McMullen, 2507 Broad Street, Parkersburg, W. Va. 26102
Mr. and Mrs. Frank O. Meyers, 702 Fourth Street, Williamstown, W. Va.
Mrs. Myron L. Null, 2331 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd C. O'Dell, 401 - 34th Street, Vienna, W. Va. 26102
Mrs. George Poling, 3919 - 11th Avenue, Parkersburg, W. Va. 26103
Mrs. Ethel Reynolds, Davisville, W. Va. 26142
Mrs. Mary C. Sechman, 216 Ryder Avenue, Clarksburg, W. Va. 26301
Mr. Robert L. Shatzer, Box 126, Albright, W. Va. 26519
Mrs. Carl D. Sommerville, Rt. 1, Box 41 A, Bridgeport, W. Va. 26330
Mrs. A. C. Tarleton, 520 Prospect Place, Fairmont, W. Va. 26354
Mrs. C. L. Watson, 1624 - 15th Street, Parkersburg, W. Va. 26102
Mrs. James Williams, Box 196, Colliers, W. Va. 26035

S. W. VA. CHAPTER

- Mr. James M. Aultz, 1010 Thirteenth Street, Huntington, W. Va. 25701
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hutton Ayre, 1 N. Fern Road, Charleston,
W. Va. 25314
Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Barton, 414 Seventh Avenue, St. Albans, W. Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Bledsoe, 1213 Brentwood Acres, Milton, W. Va. 25541
Mr. and Mrs. Earl T. Browder, 2517 Washington Ave., St. Albans, W. Va.
Mr. G. Fairfax Brown, c/o Holley Hotel, Charleston, W. Va. 25330
Mrs. H. G. Camper, Sr., Southwood, Welch, W. Va. 24801
Mr. and Mrs. Thompson Chandler, 905 Evanwood Road, Charleston,
W. Va. 25314
Rev. Earl P. Cochran, Box 235, Shady Spring, W. Va. 25918
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Cole, 401 Stanley Street, Beckley, W. Va. 25801
Mrs. J. B. Crozier, Box 187, Iaeger, W. Va. 24844
Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Donnally, 922 Ridgemont Road, Charleston,
W. Va. 25314
Mrs. Shirley Dunkle, Rt. 1, Lavalette, W. Va. 25535
Mr. Walter R. Hatfield, Rt. 1, Box 161, Barboursville, W. Va. 25504
Mrs. Lilian P. Houchins, 1439 Dry Hill Road, Beckley, W. Va. 25801
Miss Louise Jividen, Piney View, W. Va. 25906
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Lovejoy; Mrs. Lona Windsor, 1245½ Pike Street, Milton,
W. Va. 25541
Mrs. Virginia Inez McCamey, Rt. 2, Box 92, Milton, W. Va. 25541
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Miller, 900 McQueen Boulevard, St. Albans,
W. Va. 25177
Mrs. Robert Mosby, Bradshaw, W. Va. 24817
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nelson, 18 Fern Road, Charleston, W. Va. 25314
Mr. and Mrs. Melvine Ogg, Box 63, Ansted, W. Va. 25812
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pickens, 2139 - 21st Street, Nitro, W. Va. 25143
Mrs. Clara B. Pierson; Miss Theda A. Bryant, 1261 Oakhurst Drive,
Charleston, W. Va. 25314
Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Poff, 2524 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans, W. Va. 25177
Norma Ray, Lavalette, W. Va. 25535
Mrs. Mark Reid, 1200 College Avenue, Bluefield, W. Va. 24701
Mr. and Mrs. Holly D. Sturm, P. O. Box 93, Charleston, W. Va. 25321
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Van Horn, 1526 Fenton Circle, Nitro, W. Va. 25143
Mr. Curtis Tolley, Rt. 3, Box 277, Elkview, W. Va. 25071
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Williams, Stonewall Station, Box 6055, Charleston,
W. Va. 25302

GREENBRIAR CHAPTER

- Mrs. W. W. Collins, 411 Court Street, Lewisburg, W. Va. 24901
Mrs. Russell Fleshman, Rural Route, Peterstown, W. Va. 24963
Mrs. Clarence E. Hall, Star Rt. 2, Peterstown, W. Va. 24963

Mrs. T. W. Henry, 302 S. Court Street, Lewisburg, W. Va. 24901
 Rev. Charles C. Jack, Box 267, Peterstown, W. Va. 24963
 Mrs. and Mrs. W. D. Kelley, 653 Washington Street, E., Lewisburg, W. Va.
 Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Killeran, 315 Bell Drive, Lewisburg, W. Va. 24901
 Mrs. C. W. Lewis, 314 Church Street, Lewisburg, W. Va. 24901
 Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McLaughlin, Box 331, Lewisburg, W. Va. 24901
 Mrs. George A. Paterson, Buckingham Acres Addition, Lewisburg, W. Va.
 Mr. and Mrs. Fin Simms, Peterstown, W. Va. 24963

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 1, 1966 through January 1, 1967

Chapter	Family	Single	Total	New	Lost	Net
Blue Ridge	12	28	53	2	14	-12
C. & P.	9	81	99	14	13	1
Marydel	6	19	31	5	0	5
Norfolk	12	34	58	6	12	-6
E. N. C.	19	40	78	12	13	-1
W. N. C.	4	22	30	3	9	-6
C. W. Va.	6	22	34	2	3	-1
Greenbrier	4	7	15	4	1	3
S. W. Va.	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	89	267	446	65	67	-2

NEW MEMBERS

Blue Ridge:

Mr. Edward K. Hubbard, 2623 Carolina Avenue, Roanoke,
 Virginia 24014.

Mrs. Helen H. Rucker, 3205 Pineland Road, S.W., Roanoke,
 Virginia 24018.

C. & P.:

Mrs. George A. Thomas, 12400 Lawyers Road, Herndon,
Virginia 22070

Dr. and Mrs. C. N. Rice, 11625 Danville Drive, Rockville,
Maryland 20852. — moved from Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lavato, 8104 Dogwood Lane, S.E.,
Washington, D. C. 20028.

Mr. Albert H. Rott, 11730 Larry Road, Fairfax, Virginia
22030. — moved from Spokane, Wash.

Mrs. James A. Cales, Montross, Virginia 22520.

Marydel:

Mrs. Russell Leonard, Trappe, Maryland 21673.

Marydel Chapter, Miss Lulu Hevalow, R.R. #2, Box 91,
Greensboro, Maryland 21639.

Norfolk:

Mrs. Virginia Beale Conrad, 509 Hyde Park Road, Norfolk,
Virginia 23503.

Mr. G. W. Ricketts, 8311 Pamela Drive, Richmond, Vir-
ginia 23229.

E. N. C.:

Mrs. H. L. Underwood, Route #1, Reidsville, N. C. 27320

W. N. C.:

Mrs. Arthur W. Thompson, Rt. #5, Box 400, Hendersonville,
N. C. 28739.

S. W. Va.:

Mr. Curtis Tolley, Rt. #3, Box 277, Elkview, W. Va. 25071.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

When I was young, time dragged along so slowly—I thought I'd never grow up. Now time flies by so quickly that no matter how hard and fast I work the time is always gone before I have finished half of the jobs that I had tackled. This makes me know that I am getting old—but what I don't like about it is that I am getting old faster than I ever have before.

A little over a week ago I had all the furniture piled in one end of the living room getting ready for a man to make some repairs so I could start caulking and painting it while he tore up the bathroom and gave it a face lifting. Suddenly it dawned on me what date it was and that there was a deadline coming up for **Newscast**— (it seems like it was only a few weeks ago that we got the last one out)—so I hurried to the phone to call Rena, hoping she would say that I was wrong and had another month to do it. Well, she wasn't any help. So I sat down and started writing cards to all the reporters for the different chapters, yelling for help. I really needed it. And do you know that I started getting news by return mail and it has been pouring in all this week. You just can't ask for anything better than that. With a crew like that, being editor ain't half bad. Thanks to each and every one of you and I promise to give you much more notice in the future.

I found an awfully interesting article in the American Horticultural Magazine on Norfolk. It would make you want to visit that beautiful city even if you hadn't already planned to go to the Region 4 Iris meeting. I got permission to print it in **News-cast** and I hope that all of you will read it as there are so many interesting ideas on developing a beautiful city as well as working with many types of people and stimulating their interest. It is nice that our Region 4 meeting will coincide with the blooming of the azaleas and rhododendron.

News of iris is scarce in our area right now as all that we have been able to see is snow, and with the temperatures hitting

around zero it was a good feeling to know that our beloved iris were under a blanket of it. However, yesterday was spring-like and I was out looking around and am very hopeful of a good iris season here. Iris Reticulata is in bloom and two miniature daffodils have been blooming all through that awful zero weather.

Well, it's back to the caulking and painting for me. I must hurry and finish before the weather gets too spring-like, or I'll just quit and go to the garden leaving the living room looking like Mr. Half and Half.

I think our next deadline for news will be around July 1st. So take your pads and pencils to the gardens with you and make notes of all the interesting iris and people you run into and let me know about them.

We are glad to add Ellamay Hollis to our list of reporters. It is good to have news of the C. & P. area again—We have missed them the last few issues.

I'll see you in Norfolk.

NORFOLK CHAPTER

Cordially Invites You to Attend

REGION 4 ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 12, 13, 14, 1967

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

LAKE WRIGHT MOTEL

6280 NORTHAMPTON BLVD.

RATES:

\$8.00 Single Room

\$12.00 Double Room

SWIMMING POOL

GOLF COURSE

REGISTRATION FEE—\$10.00

Judging School Extra

JUDGES' TRAINING PLANS PROGRESS

All plans for Class Number Two of Region IV Judges Training Class are just about under wraps. The biggest pending factor is the attendance. With Region IV leading out in AIS in this training program, we are going to be watched very closely by AISers everywhere. Certainly we want to present a good picture but, we feel, we are most fortunate in being able to have such an outstanding person as our instructor. As you can see from the biographical sketch (located elsewhere in this issue), we are able to again present a top name in AIS and a most outstanding instructor. I am sure there will be many regrets, on your part, if you fail to participate in this educational opportunity. Remember, this training is not designed for just the prospective Judge but is designed to give you a better knowledge of the iris.

It has come to my attention that "Garden Irises" is no longer available. I have not been able to determine what plans are being made for revising it. However, you need not worry about the reading assignment from this book if a copy is not available. All the exam questions will be answered in class or can be found in the "Handbook" reading assignments. We plan to review the latest iris books and publish our findings in a coming issue of **Newscast**. It may be that we can come up with a substitute for "Garden Irises". If you have any suggestions we shall be more than glad to hear them.

I can not emphasize too strongly the necessity of getting your Reservations in early. This will help us make plans for a more effective Class. If you should find, at the last minute, that you can attend, please come on and we will do our best to see that you have a place in the Class.

LUCKY 11 in '67 See you in Norfolk

F. G. STEPHENSON, Chairman
Judges' Training, Region IV, AIS

OUR JUDGES' TRAINING SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR

Biographical Sketch of Dr. Hugo Wall

Dr. Hugo Wall, after serving Wichita State University for 37 years, retired on July 1, 1966, from his position as Vice-President—Academic Affairs.

Dr. Wall also served as dean of the Graduate School and in addition to this and his serving as Vice-President he was also director of summer sessions, teacher, and director of the Urban Studies Center.

He completed the Ph. D. degree at Stanford University in 1929. Dr. Wall is recognized as an authority on municipal government and public administration. He is the author of a textbook, "Introduction to Citizenship" which is being used by political science students.

Dr. Wall is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the American Society of Public Administrators, and the American Association of University Professors.

Dr. Wall and his wife, Dora, became interesting in iris in 1941 and soon started doing some hybridizing. Soon their hobby outgrew the bounds of their yard and they acquired a vacant lot next door and this is the home of their seedlings.

Dr. Wall's chief interest lies in the "blues" and "reds". The one introduction of which he is most proud is **Mansion House**, a pale blue. Mrs. Wall concentrates on the "Greens" and amoenas. Modestly, he claims his wife is the more successful.

In addition to his activity in the preparation of the current "Handbook", Dr. Wall's activities have included the following:

President of the Wichita Area Iris Club

AIS Garden Judge

Regional Vice-President, Region 18

Started the Region 18 Bulletin while RVP

Has conducted judging schools—Including Region 18 Judging School last year.

Served as Moderator of two different judging panels at AIS National Conventions—at Denver and at Newark.

Your Judges' Training Chairman feels we are most fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Wall. It is an opportunity which every member should take advantage of. Please plan to attend and encourage others to do so.

F. G. STEPHENSON, Chairman
Judges' Training Program, Region IV AIS

NORFOLK'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARD A BEAUTIFUL AMERICA*

By Frederic Heutte
Formerly Director, Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Norfolk, Va.

From time to time as we travel throughout America, we are attracted by a community which unwittingly seems to reflect pride as distinguished through its individual homes. This is not usually dictated by the size of the village or city, nor does it seem to be influenced by per capita wealth. No community has an exclusive on beauty.

* The above article was copied from the Journal of The American Horticultural Society with the permission of Mr. Frederic Heutte, the author and the former Director of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Norfolk, Va.

I have lived in Norfolk for thirty years as a gardener. This great naval city of 300,000 people is made up of at least one-fourth transients. I have had the chance to analyze the source of its qualities in response to the American Horticulture Magazine's request to cite Norfolk as representative of man's attempt to beautify his living and working environment.

If I were limited to giving one good example or formula, I would say that, "Beauty in any community can only be realized through the combined effort of its individual homeowners." In the case of Norfolk, for instance, the majority of lawns are sown in winter rye every fall, to give the winter greenness so noticeable to visitors . . . simple but effective, although I am told by reliable sources that it takes 3,000 tons of seed, tons of fertilizer and countless numbers of man-hours, mostly from week-end gardeners, to do the job. One new-comer remarked "they shame you into this job here."

I should explain that tidewater Virginia is considered a transitional turf area, where evergreen grasses do not prosper, (such as blue grass), and bermuda which thrives, browns out from November to May. So six million pounds of rye grass is sold over the various counters.

Our city and its environs, where this yearning for beauty abounds, has long been known for azaleas and camellias which hold sway during March, April and May. Homeowners participate to the extent that one leading nurseryman told me he had been trying for twenty years to keep ahead of the demand, but by May was all sold out.

About twenty years ago, oleanders made their appearance in Norfolk gardens. It was said then that the first hard winter would get them. However, a record 9° F. several years ago did not prevent their sub-tropical splendor from adding a colorful interlude during June and July. They vie with crepe myrtles which bloom between July 4th and Labor Day.

The story of the crepe myrtle in the Norfolk area, however, is a saga unto itself. It arrived here nearly a hundred years ago,

as some of the knarled old specimens testify, eventually escaping cultivation from abandoned farms in nearby counties. Around 1930 the garden clubs asked the City of Norfolk to adopt it as a city emblem and flower. This was done with the proviso that it be planted wherever possible along streets and public properties. Since then, no less than 100,000 have been planted, and because of this, the entire city takes on a festive appearance during the tourist season. One street, one mile long, boasts 1001 trees over fifteen feet tall—a fair record for a city which rose out of mudflats as an incorporated town in 1862 on 11 acres of land!

During the depression of the mid 30's, Norfolk decided to build a garden that would rival Charleston azalea gardens, taking advantage of federal funds. It chose as a site 125 acres of land bordering a new municipal airport surrounded by watershed properties and abounding in loblolly pines and dogwoods. It was to become a most ambitious project. By May 1947 it made the national headlines. The National Geographic Magazine featured our City under the title "Nautical Norfolk Turns to Azaleas". In natural color, the story said in part, "75,000 azaleas burst into bloom in this youthful addition to the nation's floral show places." Since then, these have grown to be over 12 feet tall and with others number over 250,000 plants, bordering on eleven mile of trails. Other species of plants have been added, among the most notable of which are 50,000 camellias in over 800 varieties and 12,000 rhododendrons, numbering 185 varieties and species.

This garden became the site for the annual International Azalea Festival. The 13th such festival was held this year on April 23, 1966 and Miss Kari Borton, daughter of Prime Minister and Mrs. Per Borton of Norway, was crowned Queen. A ceremony takes place each year at this time in honor of NATO whose headquarters are located in Norfolk. Last year's Queen was Luci Baines Johnson, crowned by her father, the President.

With this background and publicity, the city of Norfolk embarked on another ambitious beautification project in 1958, adding a further 125 acres of land to the gardens, and changing its name to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens (or "Gardens by the

Sea"). By 1966 over a million dollars had been spent, half of it on buildings to be used for flower shows and a horticulture center.

This development has had one goal—to help its citizens who are interested in beauty decide which plants they would like to grow. The botanical gardens have become the information center from which we hope to further develop a more beautiful Norfolk.

We were told that our climate was not suited to grow lilies. But through the help of Jan de Graff of Oregon Bulb Farms, we found out differently and progressed to the extent that the 1967 National Lily show will be held here. Norfolk has played host to several national plant society meetings, including the American Horticulture Congress.

When Mrs. L. B. Johnson started her drive to make America beautiful and appealed for help, Norfolk responded with 500 mature azaleas along with some Japanese Pine, to landscape a small triangle near the Nation's Capitol. Perhaps our greatest contribution however has been the raising of 25,000 azaleas from cuttings. These will be ready to be set out in the spring of 1968.

This is not really a gift on our part, but a "thank you" to the Federal Government, for sponsoring a gardeners training program during 1965, utilizing 20 retarded young men. The therapy of gardening worked wonders with these boys. It is hoped that other communities will develop similar programs. This year we have 35 in training, and the azaleas destined for Washington will be under their special care. We have hired permanently four of these apprentices, and are proud to have pioneered this particular project.

Norfolk has long realized that the beautification of any area must stem from a well informed public. To Develop beauty through plants, we must train both professionals and amateurs, and guide the often misled home gardener who falls prey to glamorous advertising of plants which are not adapted to their particular climate. In the past thirty years the Parks Department and the botanical garden have dedicated their efforts to serve the public and circulate timely information. We also act as trial

grounds for new and better plants. We have been fortunate to have been chosen as collaborators in this particular climatic zone for the USDA plant introduction and evaluation program. Other botanical gardens provide plants on an exchange basis. While again we do not claim to be exclusive in this field of endeavor, we have tried not to remain just plant collectors, but attempt to distribute and popularize those plants we felt would best serve our area. We have done this through our local nurseries, with which we have had excellent relations. Until such time as our city fathers became convinced that our beautification was meritorious the local nurseries helped generously in establishing islands of beauty in our city in cooperation with garden clubs and civic leagues. They realize now that it paid off. One landscape job alone around the Civic Center cost over \$50,000.

In this connection one of our biggest contributors to local beauty has been the Norfolk Housing Authority. While the housing itself is standard on a national scale, the landscaping and the maintenance of the grounds has been recognized as the finest in America. The Executive Director pronounced from the beginning that proper housing itself was not sufficient to rehabilitate people. They must be surrounded with beautiful plants. I remember how higher authorities condemned the practice of planting camellias and azaleas around the projects, but again with the help of local nurseries, these were supplied at the same cost as privet.

The Authority has encouraged the tenants to form garden clubs and has sponsored lectures on the subject. Hints on gardening and other information is published monthly. Under a redevelopment scheme, new boulevards and streets are evolving, planned by the famous Sasaki firm. In the overall planning of the new Norfolk, the City wisely placed on the planning commission a landscape architect, who himself heads one of the large nursery firms in the community. In this manner beautification is not likely to be neglected.

Perhaps no facet of a City's life is as important as the school system. Here again it is believed Norfolk set a first in having

school grounds designed and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Since children from all walks of life congregate at the schools it is hoped that they will be influenced by their surroundings. At first it was not easy to sell the idea to the school board and authorities, but the people through their parent-teacher associations spoke up in favor . . . at first they supplied the meager funds to buy a few shrubs, and the local nurseries supplied the trees on Arbor Day. This has become so popular that the school board now is the first to insist on proper planting and maintenance

While Norfolk did not meet the national standard in park acreage per capita when it started this practice, it used every acre to the best advantage. On the basis that school grounds are not only used during school hours, but are a vital force in community recreation, both passive and active, this philosophy has since been emulated in many other communities. It was started here 25 years ago when children could not even play outdoors after a rain until the ground dried out. Most of our play fields now form a part of that winter rye carpet mentioned in the beginning of this article.

One of Norfolk's first horticulture show cases was planted on its main artery, "Granby Street," over which trolley tracks had hauled many generations of citizens. When this was discontinued in the 1940's a thirty foot media strip was left, five miles of which has been planted. Perhaps this planting has done more than any other project to stimulate that sense of pride which must prevail before you can harness the spirit of a community. At the time it was planted this parkway was not an ordinary planting. It featured azaleas, camellias, the City's emblem, the crepe myrtle, and a greensward that was the envy of all who saw it. There are many such parkways in America today, but perhaps only few which have developed so mature a display of beauty.

To plant a city of lasting beauty, often we are tempted to use short-lived plants. The live oaks of Norfolk were, in most part, started from nine bushels of acorns from trees that were here when Captain John Smith landed in 1609. This sandy spit of land is now preserved as a park called "Sarah Constance

Shrine" in honor of one of his ships. It is nice to feel that many of these trees may still survive 500 years from now as a legacy of what had been done by this generation . . . beautification must be inspired.

But in a larger sense, the 1400 acres or so of public properties which have been landscaped within the city of Norfolk are but a small portion of the 63 square miles containing 300,000 people. This is an area transversed by the many estuaries which determine the main physical patterns of a tidewater region, where many homes border tidal basins and backwash rivers. Many gardeners have learned how to cope with this situation, and use what we are beginning to call amphibious plants. These will grow alongside such natives as the Baccharis or Salt Water Bush. So far *Pittosporum tobira*, *Ilex vomitoria*, all quinces, *hortensia*, fig trees, many species of *Euonymus*, *Elaeagnus*, *Hemerocallis* and others, thrive under saline invasions, which occur periodically when planted only a foot above high tide. Again necessity is the mother of invention even in dealing with nature. Some day, I am sure, the tidal waters of Virginia will be resplendent with color, carefully woven into the patterns of native marsh grasses—perhaps another first for this City by the sea.

The beauty of America depends upon such trials and tribulations as are only mentioned here to prove that it must be promoted through people and not only those who claim distinction in the field of landscaping and horticulture. The sooner we learn the creation of beauty through plants must be inspired, the quicker there will awaken that capability which is dormant in most of us. As in the case of dormant buds, it will spring to life when creative light is given.

On this chord I end my plea that horticulture should be dramatized so as to inspire youth to make it a career. Let us not forget that we are competing with the space age, but that every thing in horticulture does not depend on test tubes. Never before in the history of our country has beautification had a better sponsor. The First Lady of our land, and our Federal government has accepted the idea that beauty is important to every day living.

In America there has developed a tremendous vacuum between college training and laboring in the field of gardening and horticulture. We should strive to fill this void with garden technicians or whatever we choose to call them. Europe has done this for centuries and unless we can succeed in training people to become custodians of our great American dream, with its thousands of miles of landscaped super highways and beautification projects, we may defeat our purpose. Norfolk, in a very small way, has been able to lift herself by her own bootstraps, as have many other similar communities, but now we are talking big, and therefore must act big, without losing our perspectives. Here we have a challenge, one that will require the nimble hands of the housewife who tends her pot of geraniums, no less than the knowledge of the scientifically-oriented college professor. Somewhere along the line we need educated muscles as well as minds dedicated to the task before us.

This is a challenge that must be accepted not only by the colleges, but the many fine proving grounds throughout America, parks, botanical gardens and arboretums. I hope that the 17th International Horticulture Congress, meeting for the first time in America, may give some thought to this problem.

We here in Norfolk, hope that by the time this article is read, that our two year "professional gardener's training program" will have been ratified by the authorities in whose hands it now rests. Perhaps we may start another first, at least in the State of Virginia.

REGIONAL MEETING IN LEWISBURG IN '68

W. D. Kelley

The youngest chapter—the shortest time—the smallest city—are the increments on which our 1968 Convention will be built.

Last fall the Greenbrier Chapter was asked if they would host the 1968 Convention in Lewisburg, West Va. We extended the invitation with the knowledge that it was West Virginia's turn and that no other chapter was in a better position to handle this responsibility. In accepting we fully realize the many problems involved and our great limitations. However, we shall not be found wanting in the matter of desire or willingness.

Obviously, for the newer things, ours will be principally a one year planting, but we want and intend to make it the finest of this class. In this effort we could use the help of all Region IV members—just how is not now known. You might write suggesting ways in which you could help us arrange, in the shortest possible time, one of the best meetings for Region IV.

We will have a specially prepared bed of new ground for guest iris and seedlings. Region IV seedlings are of especial interest and we urge all hybridizers to send at least one, but not more than five, of their better seedlings. You may send three individual rhizomes or a small clump of each variety if you have ample stock. Guest iris and seedlings will be handled with the utmost care and the regular guesting rules will apply. There will be a best seedling award voted by the membership present.

Whenever possible we ask for shipment before bloom season and the earlier the better. This is practiced only if you have lined out single rhizomes the previous season. Then you lift the "mother" toe with the several increases, wash the dirt away, shake off excess water and then enclose the roots in a plastic sandwich bag leaving the fans outside. Ship parcel post **special handling** and **your seedlings** will be back in the ground within forty-eight to seventy-two hours and hardly know that they have been moved.

Transplanting at this time will generally show only in the quality of the bloom, but it matters not in this case for we will cut all stalks before bloom in 1967 to get maximum increase and superior bloom in 1968. Please address communications and/or shipments to Bill Kelley, Box 29, Lewisburg, West Va. 24901,

Plan on joining Greenbrier Chapter in 1968 for a fun festival in Lewisburg. We will do everything in our power to make your visit enjoyable and rewarding. Everybody likes Lewisburg—You will too!

In the meantime, don't forget

LUCKY 11 — NORFOLK '67

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUCTIONS

By Joe Lynn

As I begin this article on a cold night in late February, my calculations tell me that it is barely three months until bloom season again. That is the time of year that all Irisarians wait for, however impatiently. There will be many things to do before we start watching to see which fans will put up bloom stalks. We can only hope and pray that the late freezes will not plague us in some areas like they did last year.

Martha Davidson, our *Newscast* editor, is close enough for frequent telephone calls. Today, Martha was pleading for articles for the next issue of *Newscast*. We decided it might be interesting to tell you about the irises the Blue Ridge chapter purchased for Auction this year. For the past few years we have purchased our auction iris from Melba Hamblin. This year we bought from Gordon Plough at Eden Road Gardens. The rhi-

zomes were again planted in the Region 4 Test Garden at the Veterans Hospital in Salem, Va. I thought it might be interesting for you to have a list of these before auction time. If some of these are on your want list, you will know where to purchase them at a good price. The Blue Ridge Auction is tentatively set for July 15th.

Here is the list of irises we purchased for 1967:

Atomic Gold (Lyon '64), **Blewett Pass** (Plough '63), **Carolands** (Corlew '65), **Color Spree** (Carlson '65), **Delicious** (Plough '65), **Yes Sir** (Noyd '65), **Heaven Sent** (Plough '63), **High Country** (Christensen '64), **Indian Spring** (Christensen '65), **Irish Brogue** (Schmeltzer '63), **Modern Trend** (Nelson '64), **Palisades** (Plough '64), **Rainbow Valley** (Plough '65), **Rosie O'Day** (Corey '63), **Sir Gordon** (McGee '64), **Sparkling Champagne** (Ernest '65), **Sun Country** (Plough '63), **Sunset Blues** (Roe '65), **Torch Bearer** (Nelson '64), **Wild Apache** (Gibson '65), **Wild Peacock** (Muhlstein '64), **French Lace** (Plough '63), **Gold Lightning** (Mayberry '64), **Malacca Straits** (Johnson '64), **Norma Averett** (Muhlstein '64), **Organ Music** (Noyd '64), **Quiet Sky** (Cook '64), **Sonic Blue** (Christenson '65), **Tropic Blue** (Plough '65), **Ultrapoise** (Noyd '62), **Sunsite** (Plough '64).

There you have a list of the new ones purchased by the Blue Ridge Chapter. And there will be many more donated by our own members. I hope all the chapters are planning ahead for auctions this year. The money we make on auctions enables you to have **Newscast** free of charge. So I urge all chapters to work hard this year. We'll plan to see all of you in Norfolk for the Regional meeting in May.

REGION IV ROBINS

The robins developed a habit of arriving in Durham at times of real rush—finals, registration, etc., so your regional directors failed to get a collection of useful quotes. However, certain things definitely showed in the various robins.

First, rot is our most prevalent and continuously distressing problem. No one has a cure-all (This is also true in the national robins) but some things seem generally to be acknowledged to be helpful. First, vigilance is definitely called for. Some-times that can not be exercised if, as in our case, one has to be away on an occasional trip. The huge rot losses we have known about have, in general, come about under some such condition or under terrible weather conditions.

There seems to have been general satisfaction over the effects of using Gypsum as a preventative. Carco-X helped but is no longer available. If rot is present, cut out and destroy the affected portions, treat with Sulphur, Fermate, Clorox, Comet, or Ajax, etc. and watch the plant closely. Our own theory is that much rot starts with a damaged—bitten or borer-infected rhizome.

If you hybridize, watch your stalks bearing seed pods, for they can start to rot and run down into the parent rhizome.

Please think it over and if you are interested in a robin get in touch with us. We'd welcome more members. There is only one real obligation—send the robin on in a reasonable time—a week or ten days. If you are rushed just a note of greeting and a promise of a long letter next time. But send it on.

RALPH AND HELEN LEWIS
1401 Alabama Ave.
Durham, N. C. 27705

NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL TEST GARDEN

By Clytie McCoy

Region 4 Test Garden located at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Salem, Va., has grown since last year. Several feet were added to the contour bed which is now approximately 75 feet long and 6 feet wide. The seedlings which bloomed last year have increased tremendously and should put on a real show this year. However some of the new seedlings which were planted late last summer were received so late we are not sure as to how they will bloom.

The dead-line for seedlings will be **August 1st.** this year and will not be planted if received after this date. Please keep this in mind—your seedling does not have a chance to make sufficient root growth when planted after this date, nor does it give the judge a chance to see it at its best. So please get them in on time.

Again this year the Test Garden will be open from May 10th through May 20th., from 10:00 A. M. until 4:00 P. M. For those of you who do not know where the Hospital is located, if you will call me at 774-5682 or DU9-8333, I will be happy to meet you and go with you to the Garden.

Other than the seedlings planted there we have an Exhibition Garden started which has been donated by several people and will be added to each year. Also, for those of you who come to the Blue Ridge Chapter Auction each year, some thirty or more of the most wanted iris are being grown here. So you'd better go out and see these in bloom before **Auction Time.** You have never seen such **Rhizomes.**

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

NORFOLK CHAPTER

Mickey Kirby

1967 is exciting and full of plans for the Region 4 meeting in Norfolk on May 12th, 13th and 14th.

At the meeting on January 16th, Mrs. Robert L. Munn, Chairman, announced her officers and committee chairmen as follows:

General Chairman Mrs. Robert L. Munn
Treasurer Mrs. E. P. Seay
Registrar Mrs. Guy R. Kirby
Vice-Chairman Mrs. Rena W. Kizziar
Judges Training School Mr. Fred G. Stephenson
 Assistants: Mrs. F. G. Ward, and Mrs. E. A. Fussell
 Mrs. T. B. Holland, and Mrs. Ray Hux
Garden Tour Bus Captains Mr. Wm. T. Allen
 Mr. Ronald Harris
Publicity Mrs. Mary Ellen Thrasher
Saturday Luncheon Chairman Mrs. Weldon W. Ballard
Fellowship Awards Mr. Wm. T. Allen
Decorations Mrs. James Cohen
 Assistants: ..Mrs. W. H. Fulford and Mrs. E. P. Seay
Golf Promoter Mr. Fred G. Ward
Award Procurement Mr. Weldon Ballard
 Mrs. Upshur Wilson

The Registration fee for the meeting is \$10.00 per person, which includes Friday evening Hospitality hour, Saturday bus tour, luncheon and banquet Saturday night. Dr. Hugo Wall will be our dinner speaker.

Special rates at Lake Wright Motel are single \$8.00 and double \$12.00. Make your reservations early, directly with the Motel, as a block of rooms has been reserved for A. I. S. members at this very popular motel.

The fee for Judges Training School on Friday is \$5.00 and should be sent to Mr. Fred G. Stephenson.

Get your registration fee of \$10.00 to Mickey Kirby early. Remember the slogan "Lucky Eleven — Norfolk '67". You will have received full information about the school and tour by mail by the time this issue reaches you. Get in touch with Fred Ward if you are interested in a golf game.

Spring will be here. Iris will be growing—miniatures and dwarfs probably blooming. How can you miss Region 4 meeting to view the splendor of the Tall beardededs growing in our gardens—plus warm hospitality and fellowship.

SOUTHERN W. VA. CHAPTER

Ruby W. Bledsoe

I wish I had something to report, but there isn't much going on that would be of interest. I did not attend the last meeting that was held in St. Albans, West Va. as we were in South Carolina at that time, however, we did get two new members from Milton. They are Mrs. C. B. Windsor, 1245 Pike St., Milton, and her daughter Libby, so maybe I have created some interest here in my home town.

We had a few warm days in February and the Iris looked very good then. We added about 30 varieties this year to our own garden.

The people around Charleston, have worked hard on their project at Sun Rise. I'm sure they will be very proud at bloom time.

Oh! yes, we plan to come to Norfolk.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

By Frances D. (Mrs. B. J.) (That Other Frances) Brown

News in the Iris world of this chapter seems to be quite scarce at this time. All this reporter has been aware of has centered around the activities of the Charlotte Iris Society, a number of whose members are AIS members also.

Our Winter Meeting was held on Thursday, January 21 at a luncheon at the Kirkwood Room. About 8:30 on the morning of the meeting it began to snow and sleet, and such weather usually petrifies Charlotteans. (People who have lived "up north" really poke fun at Charlotte for coming to a stand-still at the first little snow.) Plans for the luncheon had progressed beyond the point of postponing the meeting, so taking as many members in as few cars as possible, we managed to have an attendance of 16. And by the time of meeting, the snow had stopped. Those of us who were there found ourselves unusually well fed that day.

B. J. and I presented a program of slides which we had made last spring. This was a most informal program, with both of us talking at once occasionally, but as the material was made close to home, it was appreciated in a little different way. Many of the slides were made at the Regional meeting in Greensboro, and there were some lovely things to offer, if not professional photography. One slide which I made at Mrs. Paquet's garden showed a gorgeous Oriental poppy (Salome) planted with her iris and smaller perennials. It was breathtaking in the garden, and our CIS members found it so, too. The Siberian iris in the Johnston garden, where we made our first visit during the Regional tour, were exquisite. The light, so early in the day and under the trees in the Johnston garden, was hardly enough for good pictures, but the effect carried anyway—the early part of the day and the lovely Siberians made a picture we kept "backing up" to see again. There were other Siberians in my slides and they were admired by all present. I believe it was in the Ledbetter garden that there was such a gorgeous clump of Siberian "Mrs. Lowe". My guess is that there will be some Siberians planted in the Charlotte area this year. In the slides were some shots B. J.

made at the State meeting at Graham. Even though the weather was bad for that meeting, he got some slides. Mrs. Wright, who has many things in her garden beside iris, had some lovely things blooming with the irises, and a lot of interest was centered in what we can grow with our iris. "Wine and Roses" was captured in film several times, in our garden as well as others. It saddened us to realize that lovely thing bloomed itself out last year and that there is not a sprig of it left. But those blossoms were so lovely!

The Charlotte Bench Show has been scheduled for Friday, May 5, and we hope that we shall have some good things to show. We find that more and more growers are participating in this show each year, and we keep trying to line them up with membership in the iris societies. We plan to have an arrangement table again this year, for this is the feature which really attracts attention. And so it should, for many people are interested in a flower with something beside garden and/or collector value. We do not judge these arrangements, which allow some of us who know nothing of arranging for a judging show to participate in and enjoy one just for fun.

We always have a seedling table, and interest grows in this feature. We try to encourage hybridizing, without the idea of winning the Dykes, but for the satisfaction and excitement of cooperating with nature. We think that we have at least made some progress in informing would-be hybridizers of how a cross is made. It has been some time since we have heard of an incident like this: Clarice Whicker was demonstrating "How to Hybridize an Iris" when she heard some uninformed lady in the back of the room remark: "I just don't see how she can keep that blossom alive in water long enough for it to produce a seed pod! !!"

We hope that we have at least made it clear that hybridizing is done in the garden.

C. & P. CHAPTER

A bit of news from our Chapter :

May 21st—Our Flower Show

May 27th—Tour of Gardens in C. & P. area.

June 25th—Sunday, Our Famous Auction Sale, being held this year at the home of Ed Fowler, 520 Notley Road, Silver Springs, Md.

We are also having our yearly Banquet, which will be held soon. At present no date has been set, but we will send out notices to our members soon.

See you in Judges Training Class.

ELLAMAY HOLLIS

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

Martha Davidson

At this time of year there is not much activity to report as there have been no meetings this winter. However, Joe Lynn, our Chairman, is planning on calling a committee meeting very soon to plan the tour of the gardens in this area. There are many nice gardens to be visited in our section.

Our annual Auction is tentatively set for July 15th. This is always looked forward to, as we get many good buys in very excellent iris and also have a wonderful covered dish luncheon, at which time we sit and talk iris with many other irisarians.

At this time, two of our irisarians are in the hospital in Roanoke, but will be out shortly—Frances Brown of Roanoke, and Jeanne Price of Blacksburg. We hope that they will be able to join us in Norfolk, as well as our home gardens, later this season.

PROCESSING AND PACKING IRISES FOR TRANSPORTATION TO A SHOW**

Mrs. H. O. Wilson

I. CUTTING AND LABELING

Before gathering the irises, cut some small strips of paper about 3/4" x 5". Make a slit about an inch long near one end so the other end can be placed around an iris stem and then inserted and pulled through the slit. After the irises are cut, identify each by writing the name on one of these slips and carefully applying it around the stalk. This will not bruise the stem and will remain on the iris until the specimen is checked in at the show.

Cut irises after 5:00 P.M. or just at daybreak the next morning. The flower is very crisp at these times, for the sugar starts up in the evening and when the stem is placed in warm water it turns to starch and enables the irises to hold for hours. Cut good strong stems with large buds which will open the following day.

II. WRAPPING THE STEMS

Before putting the stems in water, wrap them very carefully with toilet tissue, beginning just below the bottom branch going up the bottom branch very carefully, wrapping a little loosely around the bud and allowing the tissue to extend a little beyond the bud. Then wrap back down the branch and up the stem and each of the other branches in turn. After wrapping the top bud, wrap down the main stem and fasten the tissue very carefully by tucking it under one of the lower rounds of the wrapping. Place each specimen in a cold drink bottle which has been filled with warm water and place it in a cool room. No direct wind or draft

***Editor's Note:** Mrs. Wilson sent a number of irises to the Regional Show at El Paso in 1964. They were processed and packed by the methods here described and shipped by air. They arrived in excellent condition and formed a spectacular display.

* From the Region 17 Newsletter of March 1966.

should be on the specimen. Do not refrigerate. If there is a forecast for showers, hail, or strong winds the day before the show, the flowers can be cut before the storm and processed as above, except that the buds should not be wrapped. The buds will open and hold over for the show. This is a good way to avoid storm damage to blossoms which can ruin the chances for a blue ribbon.

III. PACKING

Select a strong cardboard box for shipping or carrying the irises. The box should be a little longer and a little wider than the specimens you plan to ship. Place several thicknesses of newspapers across the irises and ends of the box so that one part of the sheets lie in the bottom of the box and the rest extends out onto the table. A layer of green wax paper from a florist placed over these sheets will help hold the moisture.

Inside one end of the box, fasten a full block of Oasis which has been prepared by wrapping it in foil (all but the side facing the opposite end of the box) and then wrapping it in one-inch-mesh chicken wire. The Oasis should have been soaked in water for some time (weighted down in the water if necessary). The foil helps hold the moisture and the chicken wire keeps the Oasis from falling apart. Punch three sets of holes in the bottom of the box under the place the Oasis will rest, and fasten the Oasis securely to the box by running a wire or strong cord through the holes and around the block of Oasis. Insert a small block of ice in a plastic bag, wrap it in several thicknesses of newspaper, and fasten it securely to the bottom of the box at one end of the block of Oasis by the use of wire or strong cord passed through other sets of holes punched in the bottom of box. (Neither the ice or the Oasis should be allowed to work loose.) The size of the ice should be determined by the number of specimens and the distance to be shipped. A convenient way to provide the ice is to cut off the top of a gallon milk carton, fill it with water, and freeze it, making a block 7"x 5-1/2"x5-1/2".

Crush toilet tissue and place it along the other end of the box and across the bottom of the box adjoining that end, where the

buds will rest. Roll several thicknesses of newspapers into rolls and lay them across the width of the box to keep the stems from rubbing and being bruised. Enough of these rolls should be placed in the bottom to extend down below the bottom branches of the stems. Place the ends of the stems in the block of Oasis. Between the bottom layer of stems and the next layer, place tissue paper rolled and flattened. (Newspaper will do). Likewise, place the flattened rolls of tissue paper between each layer of stems and the one above it. This will cushion the stems and buds and prevent rubbing. When the specimens are all placed, wrap around the stems, about half the distance from the Oasis and the bottom branches, several thicknesses of newspaper which have been folded to about four or five inches in width. Again punch holes in the bottom of the box and very carefully tie the stems down with a heavy cord resting over these layers of newspapers which are wrapped around the stems. Fold the green wax paper and the newspapers down from the ends and the sides. Place another sheet of green wax paper over all if needed. Place the lid on the box and tie securely. Your iris specimens are then ready to be shipped or carried to a show.

SOME TIPS ON THE HORTICULTURAL DIVISION OF AN IRIS SHOW*

Clarence P. Denman

In order to avoid a bottle-neck at the entries table, the Show Committee may request that members of the local society cooperate by doing most of the routine work regarding their respective entries before bringing them to the show. Each potential exhibitor may be given an entry number, an entries sheet, and several entries tags, with a request that the entry number be placed on the entries sheet and each entry tag in advance of the

* From the Region 17 Newsletter of March 1966.

date. He may also be requested to place his name and address on each entry tag in advance. If the official entry tags are used, this information may be placed at both the upper and the lower parts of the tags in advance. Then, when the irises are cut and groomed and ready to go to the show, the name of each variety may be placed on an entry tag, and the names of varieties arranged alphabetically on the entries sheet. When the irises are brought to the entry table, all that the Entries Committee will have to do will be to check the list by the tags to see that all is complete. (Any person interested may secure a copy of the entries sheet used in Fort Worth by writing to the author of this article).

The tags should be left unfolded until the Classification Committee enters the class number. The Placement Committee will fold the tags before judging begins so the exhibitor's name will not be visible.

Each exhibitor should be supplied with an appropriate number of rubber bands to attach the tags to the container before bringing them to the entries table so they will not get mixed. Rubber bands size 18 (about three inches long) are satisfactory. One end of the band may be looped in the tag and the other end slipped around the top of the container. This will enable the tag to hang straight down, and not stick out or to one side.

The Placement Committee may arrange the containers in rows about one foot apart, with the containers about eight inches apart in the rows, and with rows at an angle of about 45 degrees with the edge of the table. In this way, the first container of the second row will be a little distance to the right (or left) of the last in the first row, etc. This will enable the Judges to get a clear view of each specimen without having to move the containers. By having a separate set or rows on each side of the table, the judges can work one side at a time without having any specimen very far away. There is no way of knowing in advance how much table space to allocate for each class. It will expedite the work of the Placement Committee if a temporary set of cards is placed along the table so they see the class number from either side and reach across the table with a container and not have to go all the way around the table and back up the other side.

After the awards are made, the Clerks can staple the ribbons to the entry tags most satisfactorily by unfolding the tags, placing the ribbons upside down on the tag with the top of the ribbon just on the line below the exhibitor's name, and fastening the staple over the cords at the edge of the ribbon. It is very important that this staple be placed midway between the sides of the tag. It does not have to be at right angles to the sides of the tag, but it is essential that the lowest point of the affixed staple be in the middle. This will permit both tag and ribbon to hang straight down, with perhaps an inch or more of the bottom end of the ribbon resting on the table. If the staple is affixed higher, the ribbon will cover the information on the tag, If the staple is placed at one side of the tag, neither the tag or the ribbon will hang straight down and there is apt to be an overall slovenly appearance. On blue ribbons, the ribbon can be held to one side after stapling and the tag refolded until the Judges have completed selecting "The Best of the Show" and other special awards. When the lower parts of the tags are removed, everything will have a neat appearance, and spectators will not have to move the ribbons to read the information on the tags.

Several Iris Societies in the Region are using green glass (prune juice) bottles for containers. These are Belton, Big D, Fort Worth, Gainesville, and New Braunfels. Gainesville is using only 32 ounce bottles with narrow necks. Fort Worth is using only the 40 ounce (Sunsweet) square bottles with wide necks. An adequate supply of bottles of the type desired can be secured if the Society starts in time and uses enough publicity. Last year, the Fort worth Iris Society did not start in time to secure the number of bottles needed and resorted to purchasing them at a few cents each until it had more than it needed. (Any group needing some extras may contact the author of this article). It will be a great help if a local supermarket can be prevailed on to save the original cardboard containers with the tops left hinged on and with the corrugated partitions inside. These make storage and transportation much simpler.

If the bottom of stems are cut straight across, it will help keep the bloom stalk upright. If wide-mouthed bottles are used, a wooden wedge may be used to hold the bloom stalk in an upright position.

THE BENEFITS OF INJURY

By Tom Buckley, Chicago, Ill.*

Accidents in the garden can set one to thinking. For instance, I knocked off the lower branch of a daylily stalk early in the season, and three proliferations subsequently grew there. Re-counting this experience to two hybridizers, I was informed that commercial growers sometimes increase their stock of valuable or slow-increasing varieties by forcibly yanking out of the plant its immature bloom stem. The plant seems to react by multiplying rapidly.

When you come to think of it, the phenomenon of reaction to injury is not unusual. Pruning is a form of injury practiced in large part to induce further and more vigorous growth. We normally remove dying blossoms of annuals and perennials generally to keep the bloom coming, and we pinch back growth stems of some plants to achieve a fuller specimen.

Examples such as these suggest that some forms of injury do evoke renewed activity from a plant, perhaps as a kind of natural compensation for some loss or damage. A similar thing is true of animals, which, though they do not usually replace lost parts, seem also to compensate for the loss of some member or function by an increase of strength, energy or sensitivity of some other, as in the instance of the acute sense of touch or hearing in the blind.

What prompts me to mention these matters is an unplanned experience with transplanted irises. There is some variation in principle and practice among iris growers as to what to do about the roots of rhizomes in transplanting, opinions ranging from leaving them intact and as long as possible to removing them entirely. My own practice is generally a compromise based more on the labor factor than on any thing else. I cut off all injured or broken roots above the break and shorten excessively long roots

* This article was copied from the Region 21 Bulletin with the permission of Mr. Larry Harder. Mr. Buckley is a Region 9 reader of the Region 21 Bulletin. His address is 6330 Damen Ave., Chicago Ill., 60636. Editor.

because my top soil is not so deep that I can plant long roots without more work and disturbance of the bed than I am willing to do. I have not had reason to believe that other methods might be more desirable. At least, I have been satisfied with the results.

One summer, however, late in July I completed what was intended to be the final planting and transplanting of the tall; but, early in August, I received four unexpected and desirable rhizomes. It had been hard enough to decide which established plants were to be retained, and so it was four recently transplanted rhizomes I chose to dig and discard. I don't remember whether I had done this before or, if I did, whether I had been attentive to what was there to be seen. But what I saw this time surprised me.

On the pruned roots of these varieties, in the ground only 12 days, were signs of the most vigorous activity, though on none was there yet evidence of any foliar growth. On some of the pruned roots, new, white, tender, succulent growth from two to three inches long was growing out at various places along their length. On others, even more surprising, a proliferation of such roots was growing only at the place of the cut, fanning out in all directions and such resembling an underground version of the "broom" effect one gets from improper stem pruning of certain shrubs. Not all of the pruned roots branched, but some of those that did were very old ones that one might have been tempted to cut off entirely before planting. And none of the unpruned roots showed any signs of branching.

It may be that shortening iris roots causes a form of injury which elicits root proliferation as a compensating response. I assume that maximum root growth is desirable for a transplanted iris, principally as providing maximum contact with soil and optimum nutritional possibilities. Some growers are of the persuasion that the old roots may be entirely removed on the theory that they will all soon die anyway and are useful only as anchorage for the new plant until the new root system develops. None of my experience, and especially the one I described, would seem to indicate that the old roots are useless. Other growers, indeed, insist that all the roots should be retained as long as possible.

If I were to choose either of these extremes, I would incline toward the latter on the theory that no living, healthy, intact part of a plant is useless until it is sloughed off by the plant itself. Whether, on the other hand, root pruning of a transplant or even of an established plant left in the ground may be vegetatively advantageous, as are other forms of pruning, I don't know. Nor do I have the room to experiment in the hope of finding out for myself. Perhaps someone else has has experience and entertains theories on the subject. I'd like to hear.

TWENTY YEARS OF HYBRIDIZING

Lloyd A. Zurbrigg

It is pleasant to be asked to write an autobiographical sketch, for the urge to talk about oneself is one many of us have to curb all our life. (Perhaps learning how to be truly interested in others is the real secret of life, the heart of the New Testament.) Yet the only excuse for such an autobiographical sketch is surely that it be of interest to others, and that keeps the writer on his mettle.

My interest in flowers was awakened by the late Alex K. Edmison, who came to our church when I was at the impressionable age of twelve. His sermons were surely among the finest ever offered a small-town congregation and five young men, including my brother, accepted the challenge of a life in the ministry during his pastorate. Mr. Edmison had taken up horticulture on the advice of a physician, since overweight was for him as for so many North Americans a serious problem. His primary interest was in plant breeding. While he was in Listowel his attention was focused largely on gladiolus and delphiniums. Some of his glad seedlings were introduced, while in delphs he managed to produce his own race of "Pacific Giants", (entirely independent of those produced south of the border), by careful line-breeding of some semi-doubles obtained from Blackmore & Langdon.

The only iris I recall him growing in Listowel was **Ambassadeur**, a clump of which I grew for the rest of my high school years, thinking that it was the best iris in the world. Upon his removal to a near-by parish in Walkerton, Mr. Edmison shifted his interest to the iris, partly because the amount of labor involved in planting and digging the gladiolus corms was getting too great for his strength. I vividly recall visiting his garden there and marvelling at the size of **Gudrun**, white with gold throat, the then unparelled blended richness of **Prairie Sunset**, and the superb contrast of **Wabash**.

While an undergraduate student in the University of Toronto the garden of Harry and Lois Bickle was my snug retreat, and there were a whole coterie of us who felt free to take the Yonge St. Car north to Glen Elm, walk the short distance to the foot of the street and push open the garden gate. Even in winter 'open house' was the rule and it was a retreat infinitely surpassing the smoke-filled rooms on or off campus where many of my fellow musicians went to discuss art and politics. The Bickles had a moderate-size, up-to-date iris collection, and I was able to update my own little collection and get some plants worth breeding with, in return for manicuring the grass paths of this hospitable and beautiful garden, where the iris was queen, tho' her court was well-attended by attractive floral courtiers.

In 1947 I made my first planned crosses of iris but in 1948 I felt called to a mission field in Alberta, in the Canadian north-west, after spending previous summers in mission work in downtown Toronto. My records go back only to 1950 and the first big year of hybridizing was 1952. In 1953, however, I attended the Banff School of Fine Arts for six weeks and this kept me from planting all the seedlings obtained. Still, enough were raised to provide several iris worthy of introduction.

As there was no garden in Canada introducing irises officially, I brought out five iris varieties in 1953, one of which, **Algiers** (Bickle), won the President's Cup at the 1955 AIS Meeting in Hamilton, Ontario. Three of the other four, **Min-demoya** (Miles), **Armour Bright** (Edmison) and **Wabashine**

(Edmison) have each figured in the parentage of at least one later Avonbank introduction. The fifth was a fine, hardy onco-greliabred dwarf from O. A. Kummer of Preston.

In 1955 I made the first introduction of one of my own seedlings. It was **Oedipus Rex**, a variegata that earned the reputation of the best-branched variegata in California, where this color class tends to do poorly. It also won "queen of the show" at Oyster Bay just a couple years ago, no mean accomplishment for either the iris or Mr. Peck, the exhibitor. Unfortunately the iris **Oedipus** has been much more resistant to inbreeding than his Grecian namesake, resisting crosses with recessive amoenas in a most irritating manner. (Its derivation, **Mexico x Gaylord**, was aimed at improving the size and form of recessive amoenas.)

Sails and Seas, a pale blue-lavender amoena came out the next year. Coming from **Extravaganza x Wabashine**, it was likewise an attempt to increase the size and quality of the recessive amoenas, which was the only kind available at the time. If this iris had any real chance of success, it was completely eclipsed by Paul Cook's remarkable **Melodrama** and **Whole Cloth**, and it is history that these wonderful dominant amoenas have dominated the breeding of amoenas ever since.

Already in 1951 I had produced six tall stems of fall bloom on six among some dozens of seedlings from **Martie Everest x Autumn Flame**. Had there been one iota of variation among those six I believe they would have been spared. As it was I had to move my garden to Stratford the next year. The cross was abandoned as showing no indication of improvement, though I realized at the time that this was a mistake. Later Mr. Edmison grew some dozens of seedlings from **Western Hills x Gibson Girl** for me. Only one of these showed any color variation, and none rebloomed in our rather short Canadian summer. I was indebted to Frances Brown of Roanoke for the plant of **Western Hills**, sent the year before introduction as I recall. However, it would not rebloom in Canada, although it was extraordinarily vigorous. Mr. Edmison had a clump of **Gibson Girl** in his garden and I vividly recall telling myself that I must take some of the best seedlings

into a backcross to their parent. What kept me from it was the slight lack of substance in the flowers of Gibson Girl, a quality not greatly compensated for in **Western Hills**, and the total absence of rebloom in that cross. The one color variation was saved and introduced as **Northern Spy**. I did not learn that it is a remontant until Raymond Smith grew it in Bloomington, Indiana along with some other seedlings of mine selected from crosses for remontants. This was a splendid bonus for me, and encouraged me to proceed.

But Bloomington, Indiana is another chapter. First came the two remontants that were from crosses not intended to produce second bloom. The first of these was **Kerry Piper**, and I have since learned that its two full sisters **Kerry Dance** and **Kerry Lea** are remontants at Seattle for Carol Ely Harper. What a surpassing joy it was for me to find stems on a clump of **Kerry Piper** in October in the Kingston garden. The parentage, pumila or pumila hybrid dwarf x **Pink Formal**, made the discovery so much the greater surprise. All the Kerry family were short lilliputs, and ordinarily stay below the 10" boundary.

The second "accident" was the intermediate iris **Chimera**. This was from a chamaeiris type dwarf crossed with pollen of a sib to **Step-Up** sent to me by Tell Muhlestein. This was a most unusual amoena, introduced for its novel color mainly, but it proved a late remontant in Bloomington and here at Radford, Virginia, will come along in September if given seaweed fertilizer (Sea-born).

After two years in Stratford, 1952-1954, I moved to Kingston, Ontario where I met and married Margaret Alexander, soprano soloist in my choir. In 1958, our last year at Kingston, I brought out **Princess Anne**, a seedling grown as far back as 1952, which went on to win an HM. This iris prefers the north-east and is still in great favor there, although Tom Craig still grows and lists it. Also brought out that year was a **Tally Ho** type iris named **Levina Copeland**. This also proved to be a remontant in Indiana, but its vigor was not quite up to the task of producing two-crops of bloom, so that it did better in the north where it bloomed only in the spring.

In the fall of 1958 we moved to Indiana University at Bloomington and stayed for four years while I worked for a Master of Music degree and a Ph.D in Music Education, receiving the latter in 1963. The garden interests would have had to be entirely banished had it not been for some most fortuitous and fortunate circumstances. One of the first things that I did upon arriving in the city was to phone the only other AIS member there. Raymond Smith was surprised to receive the call and immediately informed me that he was interested only in reblooming irises! (Note the year, 1958). I countered that I was also interested in them and had been breeding them. The upshot was a number of very pleasant visits and eventually the gift of several rows in his large garden, so that I could plant my seeds and grow a new crop of seedlings as well as a few choice varieties. The university greenhouse gave me space for the flats, which were planted after the Christmas vacation. It was interesting to note that some crosses germinated well under these circumstances, others poorly or not at all. My own **Gentian Falls** gave excellent germination, unusual for an amoena.

Two other great-hearted irisarians came to our aid also. Mr. Edmison grew on the unbloomed seedlings and a selection of named varieties along with his own. Among those grown on by him and later selected for introduction were the onco-dwarfts, **Dead Sea Scrolls**, **Parchment Scrolls** and **Once Mohr**. He had even made the cross for those from pollen of *Capitola* and a chamaeiris-type dwarf. Oddly enough, **Once Mohr** has the habit of sending up a few late stems in July, though none in the fall, hence its name. **Modulation** was the last iris of nine selected by Mr. Edmison before his death in 1961.

The other benefactor was Earl Roberts of Indianapolis. Earl kindly let me bring along all the numbered seedlings for observation. Here I was to learn much more about the dwarfs, medians and species, see a clever hybridizer at work and share ideas, plans and plants.

Thus during the study session at Indiana, I brought out seventeen new iris, all of them from crosses made in Canada. In 1962 we moved to Radford College, Radford, Virginia, where I

was fortunate enough to secure a full professorship. While this region abounds in heavy red clay, we were "fortunate" enough to get a hill-side lot with light, sandy loam which is a joy to work in, but badly lacking in nutrients and highly acid. The hillside location has made the correction of the acidity problem most difficult, and moles and shrews are a plague. All introductions during this period stem from the plants grown from seed in Bloomington except my three introductions last year, **Bliss**, **Siam** and **Helen Trigg**. Four of the eleven are Raymond Smith's remontants, which I am proud to introduce into commerce. During the past three years, under the influence of Raymond Smith, and having experienced three seasons in the past eight when the spring crop of iris was almost completely ruined by either hail or frost, I have converted my breeding program almost entirely to remontants. This will cut down drastically on the number of introductions and desirable seedlings, but I am convinced the future of the iris lies here. The late Paul Cook told me I would have to go through some lean years in this quest, but even Paul was amazed at the great strides made by Raymond Smith in ten years and all may share in his program, for he brought out many introductions last year for the sake of the hybridizers—in addition to those that Earl Roberts and I have introduced.

THE LIST OF AVONBANK INTRODUCTIONS
TO THIS POINT ARE:

- Algiers** (Bickle, 1953) 38"—deep rose blend. President's cup 1955. (Mulberry Rose x Prairie Sunset)
Armour Bright (Edmison, 1953) 36"—yellow self, horizontal falls. (Snoqualmie x Prairie Sunset)
Mindemoya (Miles 1953) 36"—blue self, fluted & ruffled. (Vanda x Elizabeth of England)

- Okon** (Kummer 1953) 14"—Onco-regelia dwarf hybrid with aril veining and signal. (Cyanea x onco-regelia, unnamed)
- Wabashine** (Edmison 1953)—Hugh white with heliotrope cast to the falls. (Wabash x Gudrun)
- Pianissimo** (Edmison 1954) 35"—S. peach, F. white edge peach, Beard peach. (Muhlestein 47-108 x Pink Papa)
- Sultan's Armour** (Edmison 1954) 24"—Brown blended self, deeper at haft. (Armour Bright x Sultan's Robe)
- Kum-On** (Kummer 1955) 12"—Rosy violet with beautiful aril veining deeper. (Cyanea x onco-regelia, unnamed)
- Oedipus Rex** (Zurbrigg 1955) 40"—S. light yellow F deep red. (Mexico x Gaylord)
- Sails and Seas** (Z. 1956) 36"—Light blue-violet amoena. (Extravaganza x Wabashine)
- Listowel** (Z. 1957) 18"—Intermediate yellow self. (sib to Armour Bright x Sound Money)
- Kerry Lea** (Z 1957) 10"—Dwarf, violet self. (pumila type x Pink Formal)
- Kerry Piper** (Z. 1957) 7"—Miniature dwarf, remontant. Violet self. (sib to Kerry Lea)
- Levina Copeland** (Edmison-Zurbrigg 1958) 34"—Orchid and purple bi-color. A late remontant, in Indiana. (Muhlestein 47-108 x Pink Papa) x Tally-Ho
- Princess Anne** (Z. 1958) 36"—S. yellow. F. white bordered yellow, haft yellow HM 1958 (Armour Bright x Cascade Splendor)
- Algonquin Park** (Z. 1959) 34"—Smooth red blend. (Sultan's Robe x Capitola)
- Banff** (Z. 1959) 38"—S. white F. Pink blend. (Miles pale orchid amoena x Chamberlain pink amoena: Pink Salmon x Hi-Time.) This iris became infected with virus. It fitted the above description when shown in Dr. Randolph's garden at the '59 Convention. Since then, both for him and myself, it developed pale yellow stands and streaky falls. Both Loleta Powell and I have found it useful as a parent.
- Fern Fraser** (Z. 1959) 36"—S. yellow. F. clear white. (Armour Bright x Ballet in Blue)
- Gentian Falls** (Z. 1959) 38"—S. white F. gentian blue. (Gaylord x Wabashine)

- Mary White** (Z. 1959) 36"—White self, apricot beard. (Pianissimo x unknown)
- Once Mohr** (Z. 1959) 18"—Orchid with deeper onco veining and signal. Sends up late stems after the tall but not in the fall. (chamaeiris type drawn x Capitola)
- Parchment Scrolls** (Z. 1959) 18"—lavender mottled deeper violet. Very odd crepy texture except in very dry seasons. No signal. (sib to Once Mohr)
- Spring Signal** (Z. 1959) 20"—S. chartreuse flushed maroon. F. maroon edged yellow. Chartreuse spot around beard. (dwarf x Rich Raiment)
- Bern Jubly** (Z. 1960) 34"—Smooth red self. Infertile. (Display x Quechee)
- Carmel Sundae** (Z. 1960) 38"—S. white with yellow midribs. F. butterscotch with wide ruffled white boarder. (Criterion x Princess Anne)
- Kerry Dance** (Z. 1960) 8"—Violet with white beard. (sib to Kerry Piper)
- Quivering Flame** (Z. 1960) 35"—S. orange, F. dark red. The S. have raised ridges of petal tissue along mid-ribs and horizontal to them. They are notched like crests. (Extravaganza x Pathfinder)
- Chimera** (Z. 1961) 18"—S. near white with edge of blue. F. maroon on upper half, chartreuse on lower half. A remontant in Indiana and Virginia. (sand-olive dwarf x sib. to Step-Up)
- Dead Sea Scrolls** (Z. 1961) 16"—Reddish-violet with deeper markings. Very crepy texture like its sibling, Parchment Scrolls. This may be a sport of Once Mohr. H. M. 1964
- Northern Spy** (Z. 1961) 36"—Blended red with copper influence and white hafts ending in "apple" stripes. A remontant in Indiana and Virginia. (Western Hills x Gibson Girl)
- Prince Charles** (Z. 1961) 36" (shorter in the south)—S. reddish tan, F. bright wine-red with hair-line border of tan (Inca Chief x Queechee).
- Sara Spentzos** (Z. 1961) 38"—S. pale ivory F. same overlaid almond brown Extravaganza x (Wabash x Snoqualmie x Prairie Sunset)
- Eager Boy** (Z. 1963) 14"—S. golden yellow F. same overlaid brown. (Cook 1432 x Nashborough)

- Indianette** (Z. 1963) 8"—red-purple self with pale blue, almost white beard. (Fairy Flax x April Morn)
- Modulation** (Z. 1963) 9"—Very pale yellow with olive spot. White beard is surmounted on a white crest. (Fairy Flax x April Morn, irradiated seed).
- Breatrice Joynt** (Z. 1965) 36"—Medium blue self, very true blue. (Mindemoya x South Pacific)
- Double Majesty** (Raymond G. Smith) 38"—Violet-purple fancy plicata. Remonts in late summer. (Muhlestein: Joseph's Mantle x Echo Valley) x Rundlett E-04-R.
- Margaret Zurbrigg** (Z. 1965) 34"—S. white F. deep violet-blue. (Gentian Falls x Whole Cloth)
- Return Engagement** (Raymond G. Smith 1965) 34"—S. white heavily sanded tan-pink. F. white overlaid coppery-violet. A remontant in late summer. (Pink Cameo x Oct. Blaze)
- Bliss** (Z. 1966) 34"—S. very pale yellow with green influence. F. same with green most evident at haft and borders. (pink amoena sib to Banff x Banff)
- Helen Trigg** (Z. 1966) 37"—Pale tangerine-orange self. Remonts in early fall. (Mott "remontant pink" sdlg. x Double Duty.)
- Lovely Again** (Raymond G. Smith 1966) 36"—Bright lavender self. Reblooms in mid-summer. (Rundlett sdlg. x (Pink Lace x Autumn Flame))
- Replicata** (Raymond G. Smith 1966) 36"—Plicata, yellow with golden-brown stitching. Late summer rebloomer. (Gibson Girl x August Gold). The pollen parent is: Pink Lace x Autumn Flame.
- Siam** (Z. 1966) 36"—S. pale yellow with lavender at mid-ribs. F. lavender-orchid. Styles yellow marked orchid. (Princess Ann x Whole Cloth).

The following irises were named but not introduced: **Maybelle Martyn**, apricot, **Deep Pink**, both Edmison irises, and **Sarah Dowd**, neglecta, and **Irresistible**, a cream and yellow standard dwarf. The Edmison irises **Sultan's Capitol** and **Royal Canadian** were introduced by Tell Muhlestein.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

John and Evelyn Dughi

January 12, 1967

Late fall and winter are most difficult seasons for those of us who like to garden year around yet limit our garden activity to the growing of iris. Of course there are Evelyn's sesanquas and camellias to admire; however, looking at those exotic creations does not alleviate this affliction called "ground itch." Occasionally, weather permitting, we give our garden a quick inspection and are elated at what we find: white paper narcissi and yellow jasmine in bloom, forsythia sliding its way out of its sleeping bag or a violet peeking from beneath an oak leaf. Even this pleasure does not gratify our lusty appetite for the feel of earth in our hands. Then reluctantly we visit our iris patch where our spirit takes a sudden dive as we behold defoliated rhizomes, occasional winter rot and shamefaced iris attempting to hide freckled arms. We ponder—just where did we fail or did we fail? We are convinced these problems are insurmountable in our garden as they appear year after year in spite of many spray programs used. However when spring comes, by a miraculous act of God, bloom stalks appear, develop, flower and in most instances give us a few weeks of pleasure.

Sometime we wonder do we overdo this iris culture bit. As an example, our next door neighbor suggested we plant a few surplus rhizomes in her flower bed that adjoins our garden. We did and just as we anticipated, the bed soon became filled with grass and weeds as our good neighbor must rely on the assistance of a yard man who appears on the scene if and when he chooses. To make a long story short, these iris plants on this 12th day of January are in an almost perfect state of health even though they have received neither care nor medication since the day they were planted. We cannot help but smile as we watch this proud, unspotted, healthy, dark green corp de ballet gracefully execute the intricate choreography of *Les Sylphides* in spite of tutues made of grasses and leaves.

January 26, 1967

This week we have had three glorious summer days, yes, glorious days which make one feel again the surge of life in spite of birthdays way beyond the age of youth. Today Fayetteville street is a beehive of activity, reminiscent of the midway at our North Carolina State Fair—it is SHOP IN RALEIGH DAY! Even we got into the carnival spirit at noontime, rushed to Belk's basement and searched the counters for the many bargains advertised. We found and fingered everything except orris root and bottled chianti. We latched on to pastel shirts, flashy ties and loud socks. We were bewitched by a magic mirror as we tried on a cocky hat. For a few enchanted seconds our memory bank released an image that had been in storage for many years. This young golden cock of the walk was in his heyday; however, he immediately stopped his strutting as Mephistopheles tapped us on the shoulder. We were jolted into reality by that mocking voice called conscience as it whispered "kid remember your age." Regretfully, we returned each item to its original perch.

February 10, 1967

Our weather prediction for yesterday was SNOW and we didn't believe it. In fact, we didn't bother to bring gear of any description as the early morning was so balmy that it just couldn't snow. Too, the temperature had been 74 degrees just a few days before. About three o'clock my secretary called to me, "its beginning to snow." By four-thirty the most beautiful snow we had ever seen was floating past our office window. The flakes were so large, fluffy and graceful that we thought to ourself "the snow spirit must be using fancy cookie cutters to make these flakes."

Evelyn called to say she would come for me at 4:45 P. M., however due to traffic jams she was over an hour late reaching our office. She headed up the main drag where we picked up a snowbound neighbor. By maneuvering our car like a snowmobile, jumping medians and breaking all the rules in the motor vehicles book we reached home safely well after six o'clock. As

we drove down our driveway we wondered how the reticulatas and crocuses were doing under a nine inch blanket of snow. Friday morning dawned with a brilliant sun so the snow melted rapidly. We went out to check on these cuties and found them as fresh and fragrant as on the first day of bloom. On seeing those grinning crocuses the following lines popped into our head:

Crocuses in the Snow

Little flirts,
Don't you know
you look so silly
sitting in the snow,

Your golden tresses
tousled by the wind,
Fuzzy snowflakes
tickling your chins.

February 22, 1967

When we visited Don and Florence Waters, Elmore, Ohio in the spring of 1966 we were very impressed by the appearance of their garden. Each bed was spotless, the iris plants tremendous, increase from the previous year heavy and the flowers magnificent. We discussed all angles of iris culture with Don and learned many things from his years of experience. His suggestions that impressed us most were sanitation, constant light cultivation and fertilization of the soil. Should your garden need it, Don gave us this formula: One quart of gypsum, 2 tablespoons of wettable 50% DDT and a handful of lime if needed. Blend thoroughly and throw by handful into center of each clump of iris and over entire bed if desired. He is of the opinion this mixture not only conditions the soil, gets the borers but will also help eliminate soft rot and some leaf spot. The privilege of visiting and talking shop with an irisarian of Don's stature has been the most outstanding event in our iris experience, Could we be granted but one wish it would be the Dykes for the famous **Music Maker**, Don's introduction.

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