

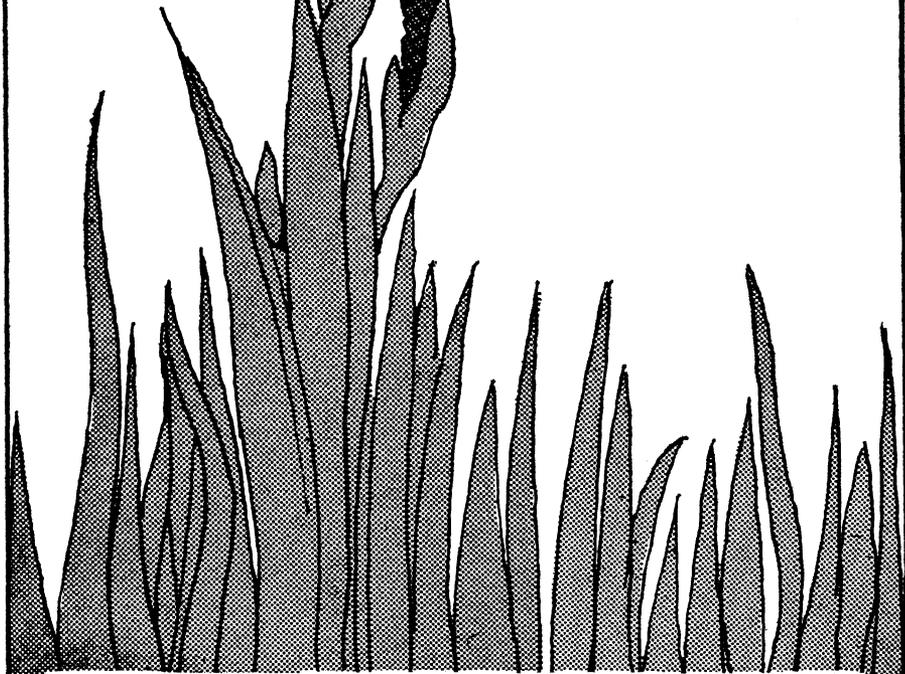
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

REGION



4

NEWS CAST



VOLUME II SEPTEMBER, 1969 NO. 2



Left—Fred Stephenson, Region 4's able chairman of Judges' Training, in his garden—See article: "National Convention Emphasizes Judges' Training";

Above—In the garden of Emily and Jimmy Hull;

Below—Conventioneers in the garden of Retta and Maynard Harp.
Photo courtesy F. G. Stephenson



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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

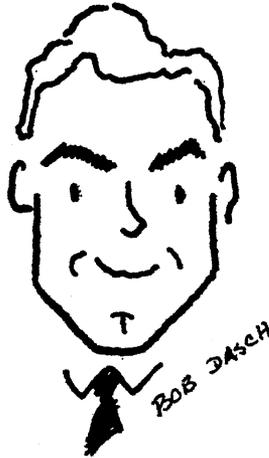
I have written two articles for this issue and that is quite enough from me. I want only to remind you that the deadline for the next NEWSCAST is **November 1**. Please, please start writing! (This issue is more than two weeks late because material did not come in on time.) I shall be very busy as Chairman of your 1970 Regional Meeting and I won't have time to beg you individually for material.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this issue.

Don't forget to notify me when officers change in the various chapters.

RENA

NEWSCASTS' WHO'S WHO IN REGION 4?



If you can't figure this one out, ask someone who attends Region 4 Judges' School.

EXCERPTS FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Region 4, AIS—Towson, Maryland, May 23, 1969

Roberta McMullin, Secretary

The annual Spring Meeting of the Executive Board, Region 4, AIS was called to order by the Regional Vice President, Frank Sherrill. There were twenty members to answer the roll call:

Frank Sherrill, RVP; Maynard Harp, Ass't. RVP; Roberta McMullin, Sect'y.; John Dughi, Public Relations; Joe Lynn, Auctions; Rena Crumpler, Newscast; Tom Ford, Ass't Newscast; Earl Browder, Conventions; Fred Stephenson, Judges' Training; Anne Lee, Bylaws; James Aultz, Historian; Jean Bowersox, Marydel; Al Thimson, Richmond; Dr. Nearpass, C. & P.; Ed Hull, Francis Scott Key; Claude O'Brien, E. North Carolina; Elizabeth Farrar, W. North Carolina; Bill Kelley, Greenbrier; Betty Ward, Norfolk; Maidel Van Horn, S. West Va.

The Historian reported that he still was not receiving any reports from chapters.

Newscast Editor reported that material is coming in better but still not in any quantity. The last issue was larger due to the printing of the Judges' Training Rules which would have to be printed separately had they not been printed in **Newscast**. To keep down expenses, it is our general policy to hold **Newscast** down to about 50 pages.

Mr. Browder reported that Charleston, W. Va., will be host to the 1972 Regional Meeting. He thought it advisable to announce a 1973 host at this time, because of the planting of seedlings. They must be planted as early as possible. He finds that the best time to plant is as soon as the bloom season is over.

Earl will work with a committee to correspond with Eastern North Carolina to see if it would be feasible to hold a convention there. This was put into a motion by Bill Kelley, seconded by Rena Crumpler and passed.

Fred Stephenson, Judges' Training, has prepared a manual for instructors to use in each chapter. This manual was worked from today. Betty Ward went into the manual cold and did a creditable job of teaching the morning class of the training session. This was the largest class with 63 registrants for the course.

The winner in the Training School Seal Competition was announced. Mrs. Ann Dasch of the Francis Scott Key Chapter will receive \$25 in iris from Fred's garden.

Retta Harp reported that we had 38 new members and eight dropouts.

An auction at Richmond on July 27th was added to those already on the program.

In Public Relations, John Dughi gave a report of his spendings for his Chair. He was allotted \$20. \$12 has been used in correspondence with Chapter Chairmen, and approximately \$3 in connection with the nominating committee, with a balance of \$3.88. Nine chapters have sent reports to their publicity chairmen. He has tried some correspondence on a national basis. Several articles sent to Art Nelson have been accepted and some have been rejected.

Blue Ridge Chapter gave no formal report, but a resume of some of the projects tried. They held their first show with more and better results than were anticipated. There were 179 entries in horticulture. Between four and five thousand visitors saw the show.

Regional plans are under way for 1970. The meeting will be held at Holiday Inn, South, Roanoke. This will be convenient to all the gardens.

Mrs. Bowersox turned over an extensive report of the activities of the Marydel Chapter. This was her first visit to a board meeting.

Southern West Virginia had a very nice report. The chapter project of iris planting at Sunrise was open to the public on May

18th, when a call to the police was necessary to regulate the flow of traffic. The garden has been improved with 59 varieties of less than five years. Most varieties are three years old.

They are starting a new project this summer. St. Albans was once known as the Iris City, a fact now forgotten. This is being refreshed with the creating of three small public gardens at locations where they will be seen by tourists. They will be mass plantings for color only, with three new gardens being added each year, until the city will again be known as Iris City.

Betty Ward reported for Norfolk, still recuperating from the break-away caused by the formation of the Richmond Chapter. Special mention was made of Rena Kizziar's beautiful garden featuring median irises.

Elizabeth Farrar reported that Charlotte was their most active area. The iris show at Charlotte was most successful, with several new members received as a result of that show.

Claude O'Brien, Western North Carolina, is a man very much on the go. He made 21 visits to gardens. He stresses the need for work on membership recruiting. Too many members come in on a one-year basis.

Dr. Nearpass reported that activity seems to have been re-generated in the Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter. He had a very good report with \$100 being sent to the treasurer.

Following this report there was a general discussion on the need for inter-board communication. We need to know about coming events; this should create interest in travel. It is believed that more interest will be created by a forecast of what and when to be than by what has already happened. Be sure to tell Rena when you have such news.

Roberta McMullin, in her report on Central West Virginia, hopes that the Chapter is not dying on its feet. The area is extremely large and it is very hard to get members to a meeting. She hopes to generate some interest in the future, having tried

various forms of communication, with special emphasis on the reactivation of the newsletter, CEE-CEE-EN.

Bill Kelley, reporting for Greenbrier Chapter, feels the chapter to be very inactive at this point. They seem to be worked out by the convention of last year.

For Francis Scott Key Chapter, Ed Hull says, "You saw it". (And indeed, if you missed it, only you were to blame.)

Al Thimson stated that Richmond Chapter is becoming most successful. They have held auctions, tours, and sent invitations to garden clubs, with three new members to add to their active 22 membership. He feels there is much enthusiasm coming from youth in that area.

Fred Stephenson moved that the Judges Training Rules, as printed in the last *Newscast*, be adopted. This motion was seconded by Joe Lynn, with a unanimous passing.

BANQUET AND REGIONAL MEETING

Ann Branch Dasch

Visualize—an elegant setting, congenial companions, a gourmet meal, music by a virtuoso, and the excitement of a nationally-known speaker—and capture the essence of the Annual Regional Meeting and Banquet of the Region 4 convention on Saturday, May 24th.

Towson Presbyterian Church supplied the setting, as more than one hundred conventioners gathered at 7 p.m. in the white and gold banquet room to enjoy a Rock Cornish Game hen dinner. Tables glowed with floral arrangements prepared by Francis Scott Key Chapter members, and Church youngsters circulated with quiet grace serving the meal. As dusk fell, green lights plied the fountain outside the windows.

The meeting commenced with "The Star-Spangled Banner" led by Margaret Zurbrigg, accompanied by her husband, Lloyd, and the invocation was delivered by Reverend R. W. Galloway. Maynard Harp, General Convention Chairman, called the meeting to order and introduced W. James Hull, Chairman of the hosting F. S. K. Chapter. Mr. Hull welcomed the conventioners and thanked the convention committees. His "Maynard, well done!" brought spontaneous applause from the assembled.

Meta Joy Epstein, a seventeen-year-old solo harpist who has won three major awards recently and who is one of America's four representatives in a forthcoming international competition, entertained. Miss Epstein, elegance in a golden gown that matched her harp and the decor, began with "Impromptu Caprice" and, after a variety of themes, concluded with "Concert Improvisation," which utilized many new effects popular on the harp. Delighted listeners demanded several curtain calls.

After announcements regarding arrangements, art work, and notes from several unable to attend, Mr. Harp explained—in humorous terms of judging and hybridizing—the marriage of Rena Crumpler, and the subsequent election and re-election of Frank Sherrill as R. V. P.

Business Meeting

Conducted by R. V. P. Frank Sherrill

Fred G. Stephenson, Chairman of Judges Training, announced the results of the recent contest, advertised in the **News-cast**, to design a judges' training seal for Region 4. Twenty-five dollars worth of iris from Mr. Stephenson's Ingleside Gardens in Roanoke was awarded to Ann Dasch.

National Membership Chairman Earl T. Browder, who said humorously that his mouth was "filled with hot air and sunshine," explained that "unlike the government, we must correct the gradual eroding of our financial reserves." Three alternatives

were listed: a cut-back of services and publications, a raise of dues, or a surge of new members. Mr. Browder "deputized" every one present to get at least one three-year family membership within 48 hours. "You can do as much as you think you can," motto of Mr. Browder's grandfather, is applicable, he stated. He asked special support from Region 4, because it is his own.

Nominations for regional officers were submitted by John A. Dughi, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The following were elected:

Maynard E. Harp, Regional Vice President, Maryland
William D. Kelley, Ass't. Regional Vice President, West Va.
Mrs. B. J. Brown, Secretary, North Carolina
Thompson Chandler, Treasurer, West Virginia
Dr. Anne Lee, Parliamentarian, Virginia
Mrs. John E. Van Horn, Historian and Librarian, West Virginia.

Order was reversed in the presentation of seedling certificates. Harold F. Carr, Guest Iris Vice Chairman, awarded a certificate for second choice of non-judges to Donnel Smith for seedling 1 A 13. The voting for second choice of A.I.S. Judges resulted in a tie between Mrs. F. A. Brown's seedling 63-112 C and Eugene Burger's seedling C 23, as explained by Mrs. Rena M. Crumpler, Immediate Past Regional Vice President, when she presented the certificates.

Reason for the reversal of procedure became evident when Thomas R. Ford, Guest Iris Chairman, named Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg's seedling 65-40 as first choice of the conventioners, and Fred G. Stephenson presented a certificate for first choice of the A.I.S. Judges to the same seedling. In accepting, Dr. Zurbrigg explained that the seedling "Easter Glory" was to be introduced this year, but due to insufficient stock, will be withheld until next year.

Mrs. Alice Miller, Hospitality Chairman, then drew for door prizes, which were presented to eight lucky members.

The past Regional Vice President, Claude C. O'Brien, introduced William T. Bledsoe, A.I.S. President, for the address. After thanking the convention dignitaries, Mr. Bledsoe congratulated Region 4 on the large turnout that included many people from the distant reaches of the region. He also expressed thanks that Mrs. Bledsoe had been invited.

In discussing the uses that the national organization finds for membership dues, Mr. Bledsoe listed various publications: the **A.I.S. Bulletin**, "What Every Iris Grower Should Know," the new Judges Handbook, scheduled for release in September, and new material being prepared for young iris growers.

Currently, stated Mr. Bledsoe, the A.I.S. is operating at a deficit, partly because favorable publicity has not been solicited. Plans to improve this situation lie in the hands of a Californian who is to be public relations officer. If the ensuing publicity campaign is successful, it may become a standard part of the A.I.S. program; if not, it will be eliminated. The current policy of sending a list of each year's new iris introductions to all A.I.S. members, at a cost of about \$1,200, has been changed. In the future, any one desiring a list will write in a request, and pay a nominal fee for printing costs.

A youth program, under the direction of Larry Harder of Nebraska, is to be initiated. Mr. Bledsoe stated that the "life of the A.I.S. depends upon getting them interested." An interest in iris, he said, is certainly more wholesome than some of the "hippy" movements now engaging American youth. If one or both parents are currently A.I.S. members, a child may join for \$1; if parents do not belong, the child's \$2 membership fee will include copies of the **Bulletin** and other material.

In the event that dues must be increased, Mr. Bledsoe reminded the assemblage that all members will be entitled to vote on the matter. When the five dollar dues were initiated in 1957, all expenses were lower. Stamps cost 3c then. **Bulletin** printing costs and clerical help have become more expensive. Mr. Bledsoe added that his salary has trebled; 3 times 0 still equals 0! He

concluded on the note that the national officers will do their best to fulfill their job, and that **every one** has the job of getting new members. Conventioneers gave Mr. Bledsoe a standing ovation.

At the conclusion of the meeting, framed reproductions of the pen and ink drawing used on the convention cover were presented to Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Sherrill by William Barr on the behalf of the F.S.K. Chapter. Mr. Sherrill then adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Although this writer admits the occasion to be her first of this sort, it cannot be an exaggeration to call the evening brilliant, memorable and extraordinarily successful—as was the entire convention.

Note: A hearty welcome is extended to Ann Dasch in joining our family of **Newscast** contributors. We hope to hear much more from her in the future. It is obvious that Mrs. Dasch has had considerable experience in writing. How easy she makes the editor's job! We also wish to thank Mr. Dasch for the submission of a number of cartoon portraits of various Region 4 personalities, one of which appears in this issue under the heading, "Who's Who in Region 4?"—Ed.

1969 SYMPOSIUM POPULARITY POLL
Compiled by Frank Sherrill, RVP

Place	Name	No. Votes	Place	Name	No. Votes
1	Stepping Out	44	4	Esther Fay	35
2	Rippling Waters	42	5	Camelot Rose	28
3	Winter Olympics	38			

Place	Name	No. Votes	Place	Name	No. Votes
6	Allegiance Pacific Panorama	26	16	Licorice Stick Milestone Ultrapoise	14
7	Amethyst Flame Gingersnap	25	17	Amigo's Guitar High Above Laurie Radiant Apogee Rainbow Gold Tea Apron	13
8	Whole Cloth	23			
9	Java Dove Rococo	22			
10	Fluted Haven Irish Lullaby Lilac Champagne Orange Parade Skywatch Ribbon Round One Desire Wine and Roses	20	18	Blue Baron Chinese Coral Commentary Denver Mint Martel Mahalo Frost and Flame	12
11	Black Swan Fuji's Mantel Music Maker	19	19	Ever and Ever Gypsy Lullaby High Life Mary Randall Prince Indigo	11
12	Blue Sapphire May Melody	18			
13	Christmas Time Edenite Sterling Silver	17	20	Mulberry Wine Arctic Fury Cayenne Capers Debby Reardon Fifth Avenue Happy Birthday Pierre Menard Pinnacle Pretty Carol Sable Night Violet Harmony	10
14	Blue Petticoats Christmas Angel Henry Shaw Olympic Torch	16			
15	Babbling Brook Kingdom	15			

Place	Name	No. Votes	Place	Name	No. Votes
21	Ad Astra Swahili Triton Apropos Bang Celestial Snow Champagne Music Crinkled Beauty Cross Country Emma Cook Fleet Admiral Indiglow Miss Indiana Utah Valley	9	24	Royal Tapestry Spanish Gift Christie Anne Credo Epic Wayward Wind Frontier Marshall Heartbreaker Moon River Orange Chariot October Ale Real Delight Bright Cloud	6
22	Cap't. Gallant Techny Chimes Crystal River Wenatchee Skies Dusky Dancer Malacca Straits Orchid Brocade	8	25	Quetta Charade Gracie Pfof Jeweltone Lady Mohr Launching Pad Lightning Ridge Lovely Light Miss Illini Night Heron Tyrolean Blue	5
23	Carolina Ruby Starburst Cocktail Time Coraband Wild Ginger Dot and Dash Flaming Star	7			

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

June 30, 1969

	Family	Single	Total	Net Gain or Loss
Blue Ridge	18 (36)	33	69	+ 12
C. & P.	7 (14)	85	99	+ 12
F. S. K.	16 (32)	36	68	+ 7
Greenbrier	3 (6)	3	9	— 2
Marydel	1 (2)	*16	18	— 2
Norfolk	6 (12)	13	25	—
E. N. C.	12 (24)	50	74	+ 5
W. N. C.	4 (8)	32	40	+ 13
Richmond	8 (16)	24	40	+ 4
C. W. Va.	5 (10)	13	23	— 2
S. W. Va.	23 (46)	18	64	+ 5
Total			529	

Note: These figures give you a comparison with the January 31, 1969, Newscast report.

(*) One C. & P. member listed under Marydel by mistake on last report.

RETTA E. HARP,
Region 4 Membership Chairman.

NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED SINCE APRIL, 1969, NEWSCAST

Retta Harp, Membership Chairman

Type
Membership

Blue Ridge Chapter

- S Mrs. M. S. Branch, Jr.,
4420 Boonsboro Rd., Lynchburg, Va. 24503
- S Mrs. Frank Dixon, Rt. 4, Lexington, Va. 24450

- F Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Hylton,
622 Kimball Ave., Salem, Va. 24153
- S Mrs. Carrie Jarrett, Rt. 1, Box 688, Fieldale, Va. 24089
- S Mrs. Elizabeth M. Martin,
4710 Oxford St., Lynchburg, Va. 24502
- F Mr. John Harrison Mays, Mr. Edward Taylor Mays, Jr.,
Rt. 1, Box 201, Amherst, Va. 24521
- F Mr. and Mrs. James S. Witt,
Rt. 1, Box 22-A, Montvale, Va. 24122

Total of 10 new members.

Blue Ridge has a large percentage of Family Memberships.

Mrs. M. S. Branch is the mother of our F. S. K. member, Ann Branch Dasch, who made the beautiful "pen and ink Iris Cover" for the Region 4 Convention in Baltimore.

C. & P. Chapter

- S Mrs. James Bryant,
7115 Wilburdale Drive, Annandale, Va. 22003
- S Mrs. Norman Cockrell,
29 Cockrell St., Alexandria, Va. 22304
- S Mr. R. Kingsley Cook,
1735 "P" St., N. W., Apt. 1, Washington, D. C. 20036
- S Mr. Joe Dillon, Purcellville, Va. 22132
- S Mrs. James E. Fowler,
116 Southway, Severna Park, Md. 21146
- S Mrs. Joseph L. Gahan,
10601 Lombardy Rd., Silver Spring, Md. 20901
- S Mrs. Stanley Georges,
Rt. 1, Box 324, Woodbridge, Va. 22191
- S Mrs. John Hannum, Jr.,
12825 Matey Rd., Silver Spring, Md. 20906
- S Mr. Curtis F. Hinkley,
8831 East Fort Foote Terrace, Oxen Hill, Md. 20022

- S Mrs. Fernanda Hogreian,
7011 Persimmon Tree Rd., Bethesda, Md. 20034
- S Mrs. Donald G. Fench, Jr.,
11236 Huntover Drive, Rockville, Md. 20852
- S Mr. Joseph S. Smith, Jr.,
Rt. 1, Box 407, Millerville, Md. 21108
- S Mrs. William G. Lewis,
9 Cockrell St., Alexandria, Va. 22304
- S Mrs. Sylvia L. McConahy,
2717 Woodedge Road, Wheaton, Md. 20906
- S Mrs. Margaret Pheil, Rt. 2, Smithsburg, Md. 21783
- S Mrs. Thomas R. Reid, Jr.,
Ceresville, Rt. 1, Frederick, Md. 21701
- S Mr. Ralph S. Spinney,
Rt. 1, Box 182, Bryan's Rd., Md. 20616
- S Mrs. Frank Troy, 9104 R. J. Ave., College Park, Md. 20740
- S Mr. William L. Yingling, Dowell, Md. 20629

18 new members in C. & P. Chapter. Just think of the potential here if Mr. and Mrs. could be used with some of these names and also added to some of the 73 singles listed last January 1, 1969. You now have 105 members in your chapter, the largest in Region 4 but only 7 Family Memberships. What a challenge!

F. S. K. Chapter

- S Mrs. Leeds K. Billingslea,
218 Pennsylvania Ave., Westminster, Md. 21157
- S Mrs. Burton N. Cox, Jr.,
809 Chumleigh Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21212
- S Mrs. G. Parker Dix,
402 Woodlawn Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21210
- S Mrs. Paul B. Harlan, Churchville, Md. 21028
- S Mrs. G. Frank Harris,
101 E. Church St., Mt. Airy, Md. 21771

- S Mrs. Allen F. Pierce,
511 West Joppa Rd., Towson, Md. 21204
- S Mrs. Guy T. Warfield,
901 Malvern Avenue, Ruxton, Md. 21204
- F Mr. and Mrs. James C. Wine,
4906 Canvasback Drive, Ellicott City, Md. 21043

Total 9. These new members were obtained through a full page of information and entry blank for "Judges Training School" in "Gardeners," the official publication of The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland. I also made an announcement and gave information at a "State Symposium" held in Towson at which time I received permission to use "Gardeners."

E. N. C. Chapter

- S Mrs. J. Y. Beasley, Rt. 3, Box 275, Louisburg, N. C. 27549
- S Mrs. Horace D. Crockford,
305 Country Club Rd., Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514
- S Mrs. Mildred Knowles, Box 36, Shiloh, N. C. 27974
- F Mrs. Gay McBeth, Dr. Gene J. Galletta,
1217 Chaney Rd., Raleigh, N. C. 27605
- S Mrs. S. T. Peace, Jr.,
238 Andrews Ave., Henderson, N. C. 27536
- S Mrs. Renford Peed, Jr., Rt. 3, Box 304, Kenly, N. C. 27542

Total 7. E. N. C. also showing more membership activity than last year.

W. N. C. Chapter

- S Mrs. John W. C. Entwistle,
810 Fayetteville Rd., Rockingham, N. C. 28379
- S Mrs. Rayvon Ferguson, Rt. 1, Box 128, Boomer, N. C. 28605
- S Mrs. W. R. Glover, 1013 Union Rd., Gastonia, N. C. 28052
- S Mrs. R. H. Griffin, 128 Wilby Drive, Matthews, N. C. 28105
- S Mrs. S. O. Martin, Rt. 1, Jonesville, N. C. 28642

- S Mrs. Edward Mullins, 519 Broome St., Monroe, N. C. 28110
 - S Mrs. J. A. Mullins, Box 273, Boone, N. C. 28607
 - S Mrs. Sam Parks,
412 Kingswood Rd., Charlotte, N. C. 28211
 - S Mrs. J. M. Rooney,
Rt. 1, Box 132-C, New London, N. C. 28127
 - S Mrs. Grayson Setzer, Rt. 7, Box 653, Lenoir, N. C. 28645
- These 10 new members show renewed activity in W. N. C.

Richmond Chapter

- S Mrs. Aubrey A. Allen, Rt. 3, Box 145, Amelia, Va. 23002
- F Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Carreras,
6900 Chelton Rd., Richmond, Va. 23228
- S Mrs. E. W. Covington,
117 Alleghany Rd., Hampton, Va. 23361
- F Mrs. Abbie Ellett and Family,
Rt. 4, Box 490, Cold Harbor Rd., Mechanicsville, Va. 23111
- S Mrs. Onalee J. Lobby,
May Cove, Box 327, Colonial Heights, Va. 23834
- S Mrs. Henry Lewis, Onley, Va. 23418
- Mrs. B. E. Oliver, Jr., Rt. 3, Box 311, Petersburg, Va. 23803
- S Mrs. E. M. Pitman, Rt. 1, Box 24-C, Keswick, Va. 22947
- F Mr. and Mrs. James N. Rogers,
Beechwood, Bumpas, Va. 23024
- S Mrs. M. C. Tennis,
237 Newport News Ave., Hampton, Va. 23369
- S Dr. Harvey N. Wingfield, Jr.,
Rt. 1, Box 395, Glen Ellen, Va. 23060
- S Mrs. Roland Young,
"Dorset Minor," Rt. 1, Box 71, Unionville, Va. 22567

15 new members since last April. This is real progress for a new chapter.

C. W. Va. Chapter

S Mrs. O. L. Ball, 512 Olive St., Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101

F Dr. and Mrs. John Hamilton,
Wells Farm, Colliers, W. Va. 26035

Total 3. C. W. Va. Chapter also showing renewed activity.

S. W. Va. Chapter

S Mrs. W. G. Childers,
Bowles Route, Box 215, Hamlin, W. Va. 25523

F Mr. and Mrs. John S. Cox,
119 Hillside Drive, Nitro, W. Va. 25143

F Mr. and Mrs. Lee C. Kelley,
149 Riverview Drive, St. Albans, W. Va. 25177

F Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Miller,
2202 Third Ave., Apt. 1, Huntington, W. Va. 25703

F Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Owens III,
2402 Chiles St., St. Albans, W. Va. 25177

F Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wilson III,
123 Riverbend Blvd., St. Albans, W. Va. 25177

Total 11. S. W. Va. has a fine record of "Family Memberships." This chapter always sends in an accurate record of the sponsors of any new members. This is a must if you are taking part in the Membership Contest.

Region 4 is now well over the 500 total which has been the goal for some time. Exact figures are not available at this time because the June renewals are still coming in. Give every new member a committee assignment and they will not become "drop-outs."

FRAIL STALKS ON FAMOUS IRISES
A Symposium, Edited by Gordon Blackwell
377 Marbledale Rd., Tuckahoe, N. Y. 10707

Before I became a member of AIS, I wondered why specific cultivars collapsed with their beautiful burdens. To remedy this, I replaced them with prizewinners. A few of these also misbehaved. With insufficient evidence, I concluded that weakness was inherent and sent this strong letter to our Society:

“It distresses me that some famous irises have weak stems. In one corner Elmohr falls down like a tottering drunk while over there two out of eight stalks of Blue Sapphire droop. The trouble seems to be top weight, not a poorly anchored rhizome.

“It is a surprise to see Ultrapoise as a Dykes runner-up because when mine has 14 buds it needs a crutch. Irisarians rush out with bamboo supports extolling, ‘What a lovely creation—and all those buds.’ However, if a stalk cannot proudly bear its maximum bud count, there is a fault. When Ultrapoise has as few as seven buds, some then observe, ‘It’s doing poorly,’ but the stalk does not droop.

“A pre-AIS gardener whose Dykes has just keeled over says, ‘Grandma’s irises needed no stakes.’ He doesn’t know that the majority of today’s irises hold up straight.

“Some irises stand like ramrods in pelting rains, but let’s leave such weatherproofing to future breeders. What I am getting at now is delicate stalks in good weather. I think this should be more important to judges.

“In **Handbook for Judges and Exhibitions** (1965) much is made of grace, angle of branching, placement and number of buds but not the supporting strength of the stalk. It occurred to me that use of stick and twine before the judges arrive is not considered wrong as long as the iris stem looks thick enough. Our judges should encourage self-supporting stalks by withholding awards from the weaklings.”

A prompt answer came from a committee I had not heard of. The letterhead announced its function: "for the Revision of the Judges' Handbook." Do they get other crank letters? The chairman, W. T. Bledsoe, of Fayetteville, Tennessee, was most kind, even in dealing with a blooper of mine:

"The angle at which the stalk grows is certainly of importance. In my own experience, however, there is usually a discernable reason why the stalk leans in a displeasing manner. If it does so naturally and grows that way regularly, then it is unquestionably a fault.

"In our windy springs down in this part of the country, the stalks on many irises are sometimes blown over to an angle leaning far from vertical. Then, too, stalks growing from the new side-rhizomes tend always not to grow as straight as the ones from the better matured rhizomes. I apologize for pointing out these facts, because I am sure that you are already well aware of them.

"The Handbook, 1965, does not, as you point out, cover this question in detail. We felt, however, that it is touched on at least partially by the first clause of the last sentence of Paragraph 1 under STALK, page 40 of the Handbook. I quote: 'Any stalk is good which sturdily supports its load of blooms, displays each bloom so that it can be seen without interference, and bears a graceful relationship to the rest of the plant.'

"A straight line from the base of the stalk to the tip of the terminal bud should be vertical, but that does not mean that the stalk should necessarily be a mathematically straight line. Some hybridizers have achieved highly pleasing effects with graceful offsets in the stalk to accommodate the flowers that normally nestle close to the stalk. For most irises, however, a straight, vertical stalk is considered desirable."

Since I am fast to boil and slow to cool, I dashed off more letters about my stalk peeve to other unfortunate officers. Our AIS president, Hubert A. Fischer, of Hinsdale, Illinois, took time out to write this helpful letter:

"About the faults of weak stems, I agree with you and it negates the thought that we have reached the limit of iris improvement. Stamina, resistance to disease, more buds for longer bloom time, etc., are all fields that are open to improvement. I will say that condition of soil, location in the garden, and other factors will affect the strength of stalk and some irises are definitely not finished products.

"As you say, some are so lovely one does not mind staking at times but I would not care to do so with too many. Take for instance Truly Yours: we discarded it long ago as it is a tired iris and always on the ground if not staked. That is what makes gardening interesting."

From Cliff W. Benson, our executive secretary in St. Louis, Missouri, came this clear-cut explanation:

"There are many reasons why stalks of certain varieties topple over from time to time and this differs in various sections of the country. Some stalks are just not sturdy enough in the first place. Some blooms are so huge that when several are open at the same time, the stalk is not sturdy enough for support. This is especially so after a heavy rain and when the blossoms are water soaked.

"Cultural methods could be another reason. Too much fertilization is a common cause of weak stalks. Extremely warm weather speeds the growth of the stalks. Snake-like growth can be one result from stalks growing too fast.

"In most cases, if tied carefully and securely by stake, the trouble is remedied.

"I grow Kingdom and the stalks have always been ram-rod stiff. I've seen it grown in other gardens and stalks had fallen over.

"Years ago I grew Elmohr. This variety has huge blooms and the stalks do have a tendency to fall over as a result of the weight. However, at that time I did not mind staking the stalk. The flowers were that attractive."

Our ESIS Newsletter editor, Tom Jacoby of Oakfield, New York, wrote:

"Years ago I was plagued by weak stalks and concluded I had overfertilized the bed because the stalks were over-tall. Last year I staked a few slender stalks carrying three or four blooms as protection against possible wind damage."

One special point of Mr. Benson's and Mr. Jacoby's deserves emphasis. Gardens where abundant fertilizer is lavished—including one that is famous for using horse manure—have more frail stalks with certain cultivars. Growth of irises under such circumstances is rapid and tall, blooms are lavish and large, but gravity gets more than its share. The same irises may have normal stalks in gardens where fertilizer is applied sparingly or not at all.

I am holding back on manure next spring, but I am still the greedy type. For assured bloom in somewhat shaded areas, I will still give 5-10-5 and superphosphate.

Hearing of my quandary, Harry B. Kuesel, president of the Median Iris Society, and newly elected president of ESIS, sent this comprehensive answer from Greenvale, New York:

"Soil conditions have a lot to do with how well an iris stalk holds up. Loose, porous soil will work fine for a well-established clump, but a new rhizome planted at surface the year before is sure to have difficulty keeping its stalk up straight. Another problem is the change in weather from warm to cold and back again.

"Have you noticed how the stalk on many rebloomers grows straight in warm weather, then when those cool nights in September come, the stalks grow out sideways, and then when warm spells return in Indian summer, the stalk grows straight again? By the blooming time, they have a real S-shaped stalk. This same iris will have a perfectly straight stalk when it blooms in the spring. Dr. G. P. Brown's

Fall Yellow Giant is a good example. This does not mean that all rebloomers have this characteristic. Summer Fantasy, another reblooming plicata with a five-way-branched stalk, does not have S-shaped stalks even with changing weather. This may be due to its extra branches.

"In some seasons when we have a late spring before warm weather comes, many TBs have fewer flowers on short stalks. A normally short TB, Violet Charm, which is about 32 inches, never has a weak stalk. Part of the answer may be the longer the stem, the more difficult it is for the iris stalk to stay up in adverse weather of heavy rains or high winds.

"Duke of Burgundy, which has a stalk of 42 inches to 48 inches, is good for normal conditions but will topple over in adverse weather. Celestial Snow has a perfect stalk under normal conditions with lots of ruffled white flowers that hold up well. For similar characteristics in season-stretching whites I like Court Dress (Buttrick), an early two-toned white with cool-white stands and warm-white falls, and the late Billowing Sails (D. Palmer). Both have good four-way-branched stalks which permit lots of bloom and good flower placement.

"In other categories, there are many with fine stalks. In pink, Esther Fay does not have too many flowers, about 7 or 8 per stalk, as I recall, but they are well placed and the stalk is very fine. In black, my favorite is Black Swan; in red violet, Grand Alliance; in red, Gypsy Jewels; in yellow, Royal Gold—all have fine stalks. Whole Cloth and some of its seedlings have very good stalks, not thick, but well branched and adequate in size to support the flowers."

I still have not made my peace with stalks that bite the dust. I cut them for the house and stand them upright in a tall vase. The blooms face outward—not the irisarian's ideal, but one relative prefers this!

With all my discontent, I could hardly believe it when told that some people routinely put supports where they are not needed. This came in another letter from Harry Kuesel:

“Some gardens, particularly public ones like Presby, arrange to have extra care at bloomtime by those who are unfamiliar with the varieties and stake all stalks whether they need them or not. A judge should never form a final opinion on the basis of one observation alone. If he sees an iris in at least three different places and observes that its bloomstalks do not require staking except in a place where most everything is staked, he will evaluate correctly.”

In conversation, Barbara Walther cited two reasons for the prevalence of Presby's stakes: “Inconsiderate visitors pull at the iris stems to examine or smell the flowers, then we have to repair the damage. We also plant very closely for the mass effect, and this makes more stalks lean.”

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November 1968 by permission of the Author

Ed.

REGION 4 MUST GROW AND NOW

Dear A.I.S. Members of Region 4:

When our A.I.S. President, Bill Bledsoe, asked me to serve as our Society Membership Chairman I pleaded for time to consider—much time. It was given and—I rested. As always, time runs out and the day came when I had to make an answer. I was well aware of the great amount of work that other Membership Chairmen had given to the effort, so I knew I would have no easy task. Still—I said “yes”. And went to work.

I asked for, and received, permission to “visit” in our Robins, and suggested that all Robin members find new A.I.S. members and that we call them Robin Recruits. Almost without exception the idea took hold and the members are earnestly at work.

I wrote to each R.V.P. and Regional Membership Chairman and asked them to go to work on the theory that we wanted

only one new member—and that was the one that each of our present members obtained. I also pleaded that we be kind to our prospective members and sell them the cheapest membership that A.I.S. has to offer—the three year family membership at \$15.00 It is the cheapest. Besides that, it is always good to keep a husband and wife together, for husband and wife teams do make our most avid irisarians. Besides all that when we get a three year member they stay a member. This idea, too, has taken root and as a result we are doing very well. Our membership is at an all time high of 7,105 members.

Little did I realize, however, that I would have to wear two hats. But I do. Under one hat I am the membership Chairman for the entire American Iris Society. Under the other I am a loyal member of Region 4. And thereon hangs a story.

Region 4 has worked. It has produced new members. In fact it has produced so many that our Region 4 now has 529 members. We are exceeded in size only by Region 18 with 598 members. So we are No. 2 in size. This means, simply, that we have to try harder. It is only fair to tell you that Region 18 knows we are nipping at their heels, so they, too, will try harder. So will Region 17 with 505 members and Region 6 with 497 members. Anyway we look at it—we have work to do.

How many members must we recruit to be sure of becoming No. 1? Answer: All we can plus at least fifty more. Offhand 700 looks like a safe figure, but if we become a Region with 700 members and find that one of the others has 715 then don't say I guessed wrong. Just get all we can—and fifty more. And hopefully that will be enough.

It can be done. It can if you will this day make a mental list of your sincere gardening friends and will call on them and tell them of the many benefits The American Iris brings to its members and of the peace of garden paths. I think I know Region 4 and the irisarian who here reside. There is not a defeatist among you anywhere, so the outcome is not a source of much concern, for you have a will to work.

Our fall Board Meeting will be held in Omaha November 1 and 2. Even as I write to you (on my way home from the Milwaukee Convention) I know what the Board will be told when we meet—that Region 4 is now Number 1.

Long ago I promised you my Grandmothers story on “Contemplating a Flower.” Many of you have reminded me of it. So ere long I will try to find the time and the mood to keep my promise. It is a wonderful story if I can but do justice to it.

Sincerely yours,
EARL T. BROWDER
AIS Membership Chairman

P. S. I hereby deputize each of you a committee of one to go and recruit your own three year family membership (tho if you must settle for a one year family membership by all means do so) then call your present A.I.S. friends and tell them “I’ve recruited my three year family A.I.S. membership as Mr. Browder asked us to do—have you?” And if the answer is “no” then offer to help! Again—it can be done. And if each of you do well your part you will prove it. E. T. B.

JUDGES’ TRAINING REPORT

F. G. Stephenson, Chairman

Statistics concerning the Judges’ Training Session will be forthcoming in the next issue of NEWSCAST. A full financial statement will be given at that time.

The Baltimore session was outstanding in that the attendance was the greatest ever for Region 4 and has been exceeded only once by another region.

The classes were specially tailored to meet the needs of the Federated Garden Judges who were interested in attending to

learn more about Exhibition Judging. The needs of potential AIS Judges were also met through our regular class schedule.

The morning session was devoted to the common aspects of both garden and exhibition judging. Your chairman was assisted in this phase by Betty Ward.

Bill Bledsoe, assisted by Rena Crumpler and other AIS Judges, conducted the afternoon session on Exhibition Judging. Your chairman, assisted by several AIS Judges conducted the afternoon session on Garden Judging.

Credit goes to Reta Harp and her committee for a most successful session. Excellent facilities and other arrangements and materials were provided that met our every need. To them goes the thanks of all who participated.

IMPRESSIONS OF AN AIS CONVENTION NEOPHYTE

F. G. Stephenson

As the jet sailed along over the beautiful mountains of Virginia and West Virginia, the rolling foothills of Kentucky and then the plains of Indiana and Illinois, I had time to reflect and ask myself a few questions. "What am I doing here? I have never been to an AIS Convention. How could I have been so foolish as to accept an invitation to conduct a part of Judges' Training with the knowledge that so many "wheels" would be there? As could be expected, the butterflies started buzzing around. As I approached Chicago I seriously considered catching the first flight back to Roanoke. However better (?) judgment prevailed and some hours later I arrived in Milwaukee still feeling a bit uneasy about the wisdom of my decision to stick it out.

After checking into the hotel I headed for Convention Headquarters hoping I'd see a friendly face. I was guided to the

meeting room where an orientation movie was being shown. Here familiar faces started appearing; Dr. Wall, Bill and Mary Lou Bledsoe, Cliff Benson, our own Dr. Lee, Carol Ramsey, a couple of friends from my Dallas visit, Rena and Gene Crumpler and others. Some of the tension started to fade as I began to realize I was among friends and that some of them shared my feelings.

Wednesday morning came all too soon but a hearty breakfast with Anne Lee, Carol Ramsey and others served to start the day off properly. Familiar names in the iris world began to become real and some pleasant friendships were under way.

The first item of the day was the Robins meeting. Seldom has one seen such enthusiasm. Here was displayed friendliness that was an intergral part of the entire meeting. People were asking about Frances Brown, Mickey Kirby, Tom Ford, and others who were not forgotten in their absence. After being signed up in two robins it was time to head for the meeting of the Reblooming Section. Margaret and Lloyd drew such a large crowd that it was impossible to get into the room. They had an overflow into the hall.

Moving on to the Japanese Iris section meeting one could get a seat as it was a bit early. Here we met bearded Ben Hager and the dean of the Japanese iris world, W. A. Payne, a most delightful person. Learned a few real interesting things about these irises. Conditions became so crowded that I considered it best to give up on further section meetings, get a good lunch and seat on the bus tour scheduled for the afternoon.

Our first tour stop was at the museum which was one of the most fantastic of the many I have seen. It presented an entirely new concept of displaying the items. Certainly such a short visit could do little more than whet the appetite to see more but the schedule would not allow it. Surely one of the interesting tour items was the visit to the Miller Brewing Company. It is hard to conceive of the intricate process required to produce the fine beer which all were allowed to sample to the heart's content.

Being the Beer Capitol of the world it was most timely that we were entertained by an "OLD MILWAUKEE NIGHT". Some of our younger members, Dr. Lee, Lloyd and Margaret Zurbrigg, cut a fine caper on the dance floor to the music of a real German Band, much to the envy of some of us "oldies".

Thursday morning was upon us almost before we had settled for the night. There was quite a rush for the busses that were to take us on the tour of the gardens, Here, again, fellowship was at its peak with many new friends being made, Bee Warburton, Steve Varner, Betty and Ira Wood and Jesse Wills, just to mention a few.

With butterflies increasing their tempo as the fatal hour came nearer we took time out for a delicious lunch at the Red Carpet Inn after which we headed for the Botanical Gardens. Bloom here was rather sparse but the prospects staggered the imagination. There were so many interesting things to see that one could have spent many days looking at the tulips, pansies, lilacs, tree peonies, and hundreds of other plants. The Garden was, perhaps, the most outstanding item on the trip.

The fatal hour was here. Judges' Training was next. After much shuffling of schedules we got under way. Things turned out exceptionally well and the reception was marvelous. With this load off the shoulders one could breathe a bit easier and more fully enjoy the remainder of the meeting. Among the friends made here were Bob Schreiner, Glen Corlew, Dr. McGarvey, and Alta Brown.

Following a rush dinner, the evening was spent attending the Judges' Training Class on Spurias, conducted by Mrs. J. Crawford and Dr. Cosgrove. Following this was the Siberian class conducted by Dr. McGarvey. This was most interesting since he backed up many of the statements made earlier at the TB Judges' Training session.

Chit chat over refreshments with Dr. Wall, Carol Ramsey, Glen Corlew and others lasted well into the night and developed much information helpful in Judges' Training.

Up again very early Friday morning and on to the busses started us out on a day of visits to five different gardens. All were different and most interesting as there was a bit more bloom. So many that we wanted to see just would not open for us so we headed back to the hotel for a quick dinner. In the evening we were entertained by the J. F. Kennedy High School singers in a most unusual and somewhat "controversal" concert.

Saturday's activity included a most interesting visit to the new and modern zoo and a revisit to the iris plantings at the Botanical Gardens. Quite a bit more bloom was evident but still being stubborn were those we most wanted to see. After a picnic lunch provided by the Park Commission, the bus took us to the Horticulture Conservatory. The highlight of this visit was the Iris Show. It was a nice show. The iris experiments under the domes were a disappointment but other items of interest compensated for the lack of iris bloom.

Everyone was looking forward to the Banquet which was held on Saturday evening. It was a great success. The food was good and the speech by Dr. Clarke Cosgrove was one of the best heard. How I wish it could be published.*

Arising early Sunday morning quite a group left for the airport in a terrific wind and cold rain, with the forecast of snow in the air. Bidding goodbye was a bit hard but the sunshine that greeted us later on in the day was a most welcome sight as was the sight of home.

In retrospect I have developed the following categories:
The most unusual irises were:

Sapphire Fuzz (Niswonger) Smoky blue with navy beard.

Burning Embers (Ensminger) Violet-Rose with orange beard.

Bay Area (Knopf) Very odd blend.

Samoa Holiday (Durrance) Odd blue with gold haft.

The most outstanding were:

- Miss Illini (Varner) Lovely golden yellow.
- Gala Rose (Blodgett) Light rose—clean.
- Nebraska Navy (Ensminger) Blue bitone
- Graceful Lady (K. Miller) Tall lilac.
- Beauty Tip (Plough) Dusky lavender—red beard.
- Festive Spirit (Plough) Nice raspberry colored—clean.
- Rippling Waves (Reinhardt) Light brown plic.
- Raspberry Ripples (Niswonger) Medium sized raspberry rose
- Indian Fringe (R. Blodgett) Highly ruffled—honey colored

Highest bud count:

- Nebraska Navy 16 buds on each stalk—some with more

Best Branching:

- Tralee (Corlew)
- Raspberry Ripples

Best Border Bearded:

- Laced Valentine (Warburton) A very lovely pink.

Yes, it was an exciting and rewarding trip. I'll be heading for New York next year. Won't you come along?

*It will be, I hope, in time for our next issue. Clarke has promised me—Ed.

NATIONAL CONVENTION EMPHASIZES JUDGES' TRAINING

Fred Stephenson a Credit to Region 4

Rena Crumpler

To anyone who has attended AIS conventions thru the years, there are many things which remain constant; the fun, the reunion with old friends and finding new ones, the lively discussions (sometimes far into the night), the beauty of the gardens and the thrill at seeing a really good seedling or new introduction. Even the disappointment of missing peak bloom (which we usually manage to do) is shared by all and woven into the fabric of conventions.

All these things were found in profusion at Milwaukee. However, there is one striking change which has evolved within the past two or three years and was particularly manifest at the 1969 meeting.

I wish all of you could compare the perfunctory, disorganized and often sparsely attended judges' training sessions which were conducted at conventions in the past with the smooth-running training programs available on every hand at Milwaukee. Not only were classes held by all the various special groups such as Spurias, Arils and Aribreds, Japanese, Siberian etc., but a whole convention afternoon was given over to training in TBs and Medians by qualified instructors.

The afternoon at Alfred L. Boerner Botanical Gardens was, generally speaking, the most interesting to the majority of conventioners. A huge tent had been erected adjacent to the main convention planting. The tent was full to overflowing and the speakers were introduced by Dr. Hugo Wall, our National Chairman of Judges' Training. The speakers were:

Oren E. Campbell, Arkansas, Exhibition Judging of TBs

Fred G. Stephenson, Virginia, Garden Judging of TBs

Carol Ramsey, Kansas, Medians

I shall not attempt to pass on to you the actual remarks of any of these speakers. They were all excellent, and though their talks were aimed at AIS judges, they were conducted in a way which made them enjoyable and instructive to all members of AIS, and might well have been presented simply under the heading of "membership education."

My purpose in this article is to report to you two things:

1. That Region 4's dream of a comprehensive, nationally sponsored judges' training program has been realized in full measure. We are glad we were the first region to recognize this need and do something about it.

2. That each and every member of Region 4 can take the greatest pride and satisfaction in knowing that one of their number has received the recognition he deserves for the tremendous amount of work and effort he has put into furthering the cause of judges' training. Fred Stephenson, Region 4's J. T. Chairman, did a most excellent job in his presentation of Garden Judging. I was sitting with our National President, Bill Bledsoe, and believe me when I say, we were both proud of Fred's able and knowledgeable treatment of his subject.

In an organization such as ours, apart from personal satisfaction, recognition and appreciation of our efforts by our fellow members is the only reward we ever get. Fred has our congratulations and continuing thanks for bringing honors to Region 4.

JUDGES' TRAINING — REGION 4
Morning Session
Ann Brančh Dasch

The largest turnout for any Judges' Training School—approximately sixty registrants—attended Class I at the Park-Towson Motel on May 23rd under the able direction of Fred

Stephenson. Betty Ward, student teacher, assisted in covering the diverse and intensive course of study.

Scheduled for revision and republication in September, the handbook containing the essence of the material covered was not available, and printed information sheets were distributed. The purpose of judging, stated Mr. Stephenson, is to evaluate the standards of iris excellence, which are evolving rapidly, and to establish uniform national policies and points of reference.

Comparison is the key to becoming a good judge, and a sense of balance and an eye for color are assets. Continued study is required to keep pace with changes in color, form, vigor, etc. and travels outside one's region teach the judge to note changes that may be related to climatic and cultural conditions.

In discussing the responsibilities and duties of judges, Mr. Stephenson stressed the fact that the judge must lay aside personal preferences and prejudices, and consider only merit. The judge's personal knowledge of the flower is gained by growing iris, visiting various gardens, reading relative printed material, and attending training classes. A garden judge has special responsibilities to hybridizers: to encourage them by evaluating their seedlings, to criticize tactfully and thoroughly, and to vote for the best new irises. Voting, dependent upon a knowledge of the annual A.I.S. awards, is essential, and continuing failure to function in this capacity will lead to removal of the judge's accreditation.

Awards, as explained in the handbook, were discussed in detail. Of special interest were the High Commendation for an iris not yet introduced, the Honorable Mention awarded to irises on the market, the Award of Merit, and the Dykes Medal, pinnacle of irisdom given to the best A.M. (or comparable award) winner each year. Voting and eligibility for these and other awards were explained.

Preparation of stalks for transportation, fertilizing, and treatments for insects and disease were covered succinctly. Mr. Stephenson reported success with the new treatment of burning

off dead leaves with a weed burner during the winter while the ground is frozen to protect the rhizomes. This destroys borer eggs which are often merely shaken to the ground if dead foliage is removed. Mr. Stephenson cautioned students to work quickly and to keep the heat off the center of the plant.

A sheet distributed entitled "Color Classification Basics" explained the letter and number system that enables the judge to record iris coloration in an extraordinarily brief fashion. Symbols encompass the basic color, color placement, intensity and marking of the flower.

Individual blossoms and a page showing the individual parts of an iris were distributed, and students carefully dismantled iris to identify the parts, including the reproductive system.

Next, Mr. Stephenson delineated the differences between garden judging—against the hypothetical perfect iris, and bench judging—against perfection for that particular variety.

New emphasis is being placed upon the iris as an integral part of the landscape. The garden value of any variety hinges upon its compatibility, vigorous growth, branching to establish a good visual effect, and the length of the bloom season. Styles in iris have changed rapidly; at one time ruffling was avoided by hybridizers, then came popularly for the most lavishly ruffled, and now tailored iris are again gaining acceptance.

After recommending the **Encyclopedia of Judging**, Mr. Stephenson launched a discussion of quality in color, texture, substance, and form. Shape, structure, position and substance equal the balance of the flower, he stated.

A garden judge should visit a variety on a succession of days to adequately evaluate the aging of the flower and the sequence of new buds that open. Exhibition judging, in contrast, considers only the immediate moment. Personality, desirable individuality, and distinction attract the viewer from the distance and must stand up to closer scrutiny. Point scales for judging were covered briefly. Above all else, added Mr. Stephenson, the good judge must "never be afraid to make an independent judgement!"

AFTERNOON SESSION—EXHIBITION JUDGING

Tom Ford

Near the end of the morning lectures, Mr. Wm. T. Bledsoe, our National AIS President, arrived and was introduced to the Judging School by Fred Stephenson. Mr. Bledsoe indicated that he was impressed by the excellent attendance at the class and was very happy to know that it had been opened to the Federated Garden Judges who were not necessarily AIS members. He remarked that the J. T. Program has been and is one of his pet projects and he has seen it come along with great strides in Region 4 with some very fine, appropriate innovations taking place here before being adopted by other regions. The AIS president recalled that he'd had quite a few rewarding meetings and much correspondence with Fred Stephenson and Region 4's RVP about the content of the J. T. Program. He stressed the importance of the course in giving the region and the national organizations well-trained, well-qualified judges, thereby affecting the quality of irises selected for garden dependability and for awards.

The class was then divided into two sections. The members who were taking the course for credit gathered in the Miller garden for garden judging instruction and the Federated Garden Judges and those interested in exhibition judging, settled down for instruction under Mr. Bledsoe, assisted by Rena Crumpler.

Mr. Bledsoe discussed exhibition judging in general, then illustrated specific points by using several classes of irises which had been set up for this purpose. After a question and answer period, the class was asked to point score specimen and collection classes which had been judged and point scored previously by a panel of AIS judges. The students were then allowed to keep their papers and make comparisons while Rena Crumpler did a critical analysis of the exhibits based on the point scoring of the panel of judges.

THE GRASS IS NOT GREENER—
ONE JUDGE'S OPINION

Rena Crumpler

Has anybody asked me for an opinion of the best seedlings I saw in 1969, or the most interesting '69 introductions? No, nobody has, but then—whenever did I wait until asked to express an opinion?

I'm sure many of you know that I am a tough judge, have never voted for a hybridizer in my life and that I get around and see a lot of irises. The truth is that each year, even with all the improvements made in our flower, I am hard put to find more than two or three seedlings that I can conscientiously and gladly vote a High Commendation. Sadly, the more irises we see, the less excited we become over seedlings because there is little that is completely new and different and excellent in every respect. We judges sometimes forget that "just as good" as an introduced variety is simply not good enough. The HMs and AMs come much easier because these are selected from irises pretty widely grown and proven.

Now, here is the surprise. I found that the grass is not greener on the other side of the fence nor, for that matter, do the best irises grow on the other side of the continent; that the best seedlings I saw in 1969 (and some of the best introduced varieties) were not the work of hybridizers half-way across the world, but were created by our own hybridizers right here in Region 4.

Do I feel that way because I saw more Region 4 seedlings? No! I saw more seedlings from out of the region. Is it because I am more interested in the success of Region 4 hybridizers? Again, no! In all fairness, I certainly am happy to promote the success of Region 4 hybridizers, but, if I have any skill at all as a judge, it lies in the ability to be impartial and impersonal.

What did I see that thrilled and delighted me? Where did I find them?

One was blooming in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. F. Allen Brown, Roanoke, Va. It was one of Frances' babies which I made at least three trips to observe. No. 65-135 A is a true self of old rose with a dusty amber overlay which, in my mind, was immediately named "Dusky Rose". The color is muted, grayed, subtle, and yet, has great carrying power. The tangerine tinged beard, which seems to blend into the flower, adds depth and distinction. The whole well substandard flower is ruffled, fluted and flaired. The stalk is a well branched 36". It has good bud count and long lasting blooms which continue from early spring thru midseason.

Another seedling was found in the most remarkable garden of Mr. and Mrs. George I. Crossman, Hamilton, Va. You will hear much more of this garden in a later issue of NEWSCAST. Mr. Crossman's seedling 68-13, (since named May Romance), has standards of light orchid-tinted pink, ruffled and held stiffly upright; slightly deeper falls of the same hue, becoming lighter in the broad hafts. The very heavy coral pink beard carries color into the heart of the flower to enliven and accentuate. There are many buds, three branches, plus terminal, attractively spaced, on strong 30" stalks.

A third seedling I liked was one of Lloyd Zurbrigg's No. 65-40A. I did not write my own description and, at this time, I am unable to get in touch with Lloyd to refresh my memory, but I note that it has received an H.C. this year, which it richly deserves.

I have cast my vote for best seedlings. Now, what about my favorite 1969 introduction seen at the Milwaukee Convention? It is by an up-and-coming hybridizer from a neighboring region, Dave Niswonger, Cape Iris Gardens, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and it is aptly named, Raspberry Ripples. From the voting, it also seems to have been the choice of most of the conventioners. Dave has also introduced Sapphire Fuzz (1967) and Tycoon's Gold (1968), both interesting irises.

I cannot close without giving you another of my choices. Lloyd Zurbrigg's Grand Baroque (1969) is, without doubt, the most delightful flower I have ever beheld in a remontant. It is chartreuse with a hint of blue—or is it? The color is difficult to describe and it doesn't always appear quite the same. Anyway, it is fascinating. Large and ruffled, it provided quite a conversation piece at Milwaukee the closing day of the convention. That morning, it was viewed as it opened up and was seen later the same day by the hearty breed of die-hards who revisited the main convention planting in the pouring, driving rain.

Now, where do you suppose you can see all these beauties next year? Well, of course, some in the hybridizers' gardens, some in the main convention planting, but you can be sure they will all be growing in my iris patch, and, hopefully, a great many of you will see them in bloom when you "GO BLUE RIDGE IN '70"!

Fred Stephenson, in discussing acceptable positions for standards during the Judges' Training class, made a comparison that may become a classic. "When a lady looks good in a low-cut ball gown, let her wear it; otherwise, she'd better have a high tight neckline. If an iris has something to show, it can afford open standards, if not, it better have a high neck, too."

Asked how he named his new iris Po Ting, Joe Lynn explained that his grandmother was a very sympathetic Virginian. When she felt sorry for someone, she'd shake her head and say, "Tch, tch . . . po ting!"

NEWS OF THE CHAPTERS

“SUNRISE” IRIS GARDEN WINS “BEST IN HORTICULTURE” AWARD

**Other news of Southern West Virginia Chapter Activities
Jim Aultz, Publicity Chairman**

On Saturday afternoon, June 14th, The Southern West Virginia Chapter was signally honored by the West Virginia Garden Clubs, Inc. The Chapter accepted a silver bowl, won by the “Sunrise” Iris Garden as the Best in Horticulture achievement in the state during 1968. Mrs. Richard H. Ayre, Vice President of The South Hills Garden Club, who sponsored our Chapter so that the Sunrise Iris Garden might be eligible for this competition, presented the award at the regular June meeting. The competition for this award is said to be tough indeed, so our Chapter was pleased to have won it for our Special Project in recent years—The Iris Garden at “Sunrise”.

Our members are particularly gratified that the “Sunrise” Iris Garden, at Charleston, West Virginia, drew crowds this year which had traffic backed up for three blocks when Sunrise was opened to the general public on the week-end of May 18th. Not so unusual? We should add that it poured rain all day; tourists made the garden trek under the cover of umbrellas! Plainly, West Virginians and others have responded to the appeal of the iris beauty at “Sunrise” in an amazing way.

Approximately twenty-eight of the new irises planted in bed No. 2 had bloomed before the season was over. Bed No. 4 is scheduled to be replanted this summer, as a part of the continuing program to keep the irises in the Garden new and interesting. Members will again, as last year, sponsor modern irises to be planted in the Garden.

Eleven of our members attended the Region 4 meeting in Maryland this year. This represents almost the total of our membership who regularly attend our meetings at home. Three persons from our area attended the Annual Meeting of A.I.S. in Milwaukee.

Recent Chapter meetings reflect the wishes of our members with regard to programing. We have enjoyed slides on remontant irises (courtesy the Remontant Iris Society) and, in April a program on the rebloomers. The fine points of hybridizing were illustrated by EARL T. BROWDER in a practical demonstration at our May meeting.

While our Chapter does not have iris shows, our members are proud of the irises they grow and exhibit them in the Garden Center and Great Hall of "Sunrise" each May, where they share honors with those irises in the garden outside. Mr. John VanHorn, former Chapter Chairman, and Mrs. VanHorn, present Chapter Chairman, welcome visitors to their garden during the season, as does EARL T. BROWDER, who was our first Chapter Chairman and is now National Membership Chairman for A.I.S.

The local public and Chapter members as well look forward each year to our Annual Iris Auction, held in mid-July. This year, the date is July 12th. The place, as in recent years, is Sunrise. Mr. and Mrs. SAM OWENS, JR. are Auction Chairmen this year. A large and enthusiastic crowd is expected to attend.

Finally, one of our members who made his first iris cross this year is confident that he knows what the Dykes Medal winner will be, a few years hence!

The following letter dated June 20, 1969 from the President of Sunrise Foundation Inc., Charleston, W. Va. has been received by chapter chairman—Mrs. John VanHorn:

Dear Mrs. VanHorn:

On behalf of the Board and all those associated with Sunrise, we wanted to send our sincere congratulations to you

and the West Virginia Chapter of the American Iris Society for receiving the superlative commendation from the West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. We also wanted to express our appreciation to all those in the Society who have worked so diligently to bring such beauty and variety to Sunrise. The yearly Iris display has become a tradition—one that I know from personal experience people look forward to enjoying annually.

As you may know, last year over 110,000 people visited Sunrise from 42 states and 22 foreign countries. This makes Sunrise the Valley's No. 1 tourist attraction. We wanted you to know how much we appreciate the efforts of the Society in contributing to this spectacular record.

Once again, congratulations and all best wishes from all of us at Sunrise.

Sincerely,

K. Whitney Weihe
President

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAPTER AUCTION

Anne Allen

On a breezy Sunday afternoon, July 13th, 1969, the FSK Chapter had its second annual iris auction.

The thirteenth was a lucky day for anyone hunting for iris bargains, as they were plentiful. In addition to hundreds offered on the sales tables, the auction included such fine varieties as Acapulco, Azure Lace, Bewitched, Blushing Beauty,

Burning Coals, Camelot Rose, Coral Kissed, Craftsman, Credo, Denver Mint, Eternal Flame, Fair and Warm, Franciscan Friar, Fuji's Mantle, Gentle Persuasion, Java Dove, Laurie, Main Attraction, Orchid Brocade, Percussion, Raspberry Whirl, Ruffled Dream, Southern Heritage, Stylemaster, Swahili, Tuxedo and many others.

Harold Carr was our auctioneer. He appreciated the help of other chapter members in making the job go smoothly.

Welcome visitors from other chapters joined us at the home of Glenn and Anne Allen, Eldersburg, for a most pleasant afternoon.

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER REPORT

F. G. Stephenson,, Chapter Chairman

Things seem to be moving along at their usual pace. Several new members have been added to our roll. Certainly a welcome to these is in order. We still have a great need for new and ACTIVE members. Let's look around and see if we can't interest some of the many iris growers in our area.

The promised list of gardens which would be open to visitors during iris bloom time did not materialize due to the lack of response to the questionnaire sent out. Maybe we can do better next year.

Our first Iris Show was a big success. The Crossroads Shopping Mall folks were most enthusiastic about the crowds it drew and have invited us back. With the Regional meeting scheduled here for next year it will be impossible for us to accept this invitation but it is hoped that we can go back in 1971 with a much bigger show.

Plans for the 1970 Regional Meeting are coming along nicely and by the time you read this our first organizational meeting will have been held and job assignments made. Quite a few gardens are to be included on the tours and all gardens which are open to visitors will be listed.

Results of our Iris Auction were a bit disappointing. Too many of the good irises went at give-a-way prices. This was due, in part to the absence of several who usually do a good bit of buying. Watch for a list of our purchases for the 1970 auction in a later issue. This outstanding list should draw some interested customers and, hopefully, better prices.

Our Fall Meeting will be held with the Zurbriggs in Radford. It will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 5th and will begin with a "Potluck" Luncheon. The Zurbriggs have made great plans and have promised to have lots of irises in bloom. This should prove most interesting.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Marge Murray in the loss of her mother in early July. We know that she will be missed by all who knew her.

Your Chapter Chairman wishes to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked so hard on our first Iris Show. Certainly the show would not have been possible without the cooperation of everyone. Thanks also go to those who worked in making our iris auction possible.

C. and P. CHAPTER
D. C. Nearpass

Annual Dinner Meeting.

This year's dinner meeting was held at Bish Thompson's Restaurant, Bethesda, Md. on Saturday evening, March 22nd.

The meeting began with the customary social hour at 6:30 P. M. with a roast beef dinner at 7:30 P. M.

Dinner was followed by a slide show. Members brought slides of recent introductions, especially the varieties to be sold at the auction.

Garden Tour

Due to Regional Tour in the Baltimore area the week-end of May 24, the C and P tour was held the following week-end. Bud Bennett was in charge.

Fall Meeting

We hope to have another get-together in the fall, perhaps to discuss hybridizing, taking better color slides, the new varieties and improvements, or some such topic.

Officers for 1969

D. C. Nearpass, Chairman
Tom Ford, First Vice Chairman
Eugene Burger, Second Vice Chairman
Mrs. T. N. Labash, Treasurer
Mrs. Richard Lavato, Corresponding Secretary
Floyd Wickenkamp, Membership.

MARYDEL CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

Jean Bowersox

Between May 1, 1968 and May 1, 1969, the Marydel Chapter, A. I. S. met for six regular meetings, an iris exhibition, an auction and a covered dish picnic supper. Average attendance was nine members.

May 22, 1968, We had an Iris Exhibition in Easton, Md. with about 250 varieties on display. The table of Dykes Medal winners was complete except for Winter Olympics. There were two tables of Dutch, Siberian and species irises. An educational exhibit was prepared showing the various color classifications—plicate, bicolor etc. Arrangements were done by members showing irises alone and with other flowers. Refreshments were served and nine iris rhizomes were given as door prizes.

July 30, 1968, We held our auction in Easton. Before the auction we drew lots for the irises we had bought to be grown for next years auction.

August 12, 1968, We enjoyed a covered dish picnic supper at Mrs. Russell Leonard's waterfront home.

September 17, 1968, The program for the coming year was presented at a luncheon meeting at the Crown Inn, Easton.

October 29, 1968, We had a covered dish luncheon and Hallowe'en party. Everyone came dressed as an iris and Hallowe'en games were played. Prizes were spring bulbs.

December 3, 1968, We met for a luncheon Christmas party at the Manor Inn. The report from the Regional Board meeting was read and discussed. After the business meeting, gifts were exchanged and Christmas games were played.

February 18, 1969, We met at the Manor for luncheon and a slide program of our members' garden was presented.

March 18, 1969, We met at the Tidewater Inn for luncheon. Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Harp of the Francis Scott Key Chapter presented a program on the culture of iris and the various types of irises. Mr. Harp told us the plans for Region 4 Annual Meeting. We opened this meeting to the public and nineteen attended.

April 29, 1969, We met at the Manor Inn for luncheon and saw a movie "Flower Arrangements of Williamsburg". We then went to see Mrs. Henry Purdy's garden.

IN SYMPATHY

Newscast extends sympathy to Mr. Walter R. Hatfield, Barboursville, W. Va. in the tragic death of his wife, Lucy A. Hatfield, on April 25, 1969. Ed.



JUDGES TRAINING—(above) Betty Ward speaks at the morning session;
(below) AIS President, Bill Bledsoe, teaches Exhibition Judging of TB irises.

Photos courtesy Maynard Harp



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