

THE MEDIANITE

Volume 12 No. 3

July 1971

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President's Patch

What a year! Weatherwise everything worked to produce one of the best, if not the best bloom season Wichitans can recall. Just beyond the range of the past year's severe winter, we at the same time escaped the drought plaguing our southern neighbors. Spring storms teased, but brought only beneficial rains at exactly the right times. Temperatures remained consistent without the destructive mid-winter warm spells which so often play hob with the irises, and when spring arrived, it came to stay.

What a beautiful spring it was, and the irises put on a fantastic show—the bloomingest season imaginable. What a happy coincidence that such a season would occur the year of Wichita's national convention. It was a case of being in the right place at the right time.

Median bloom began earlier than usual and remained longer than usual. Just as the standard dwarfs should have been ready to call it a day, a whole new crop of buds appeared. They just didn't want to stop blooming. In some cases, individual clumps were in good bloom over a five-week span. When convention time arrived with the tall, borders and miniature tall at peak bloom, there were still standard dwarfs in bloom, and all but the earliest intermediates.

Medianites, as usual, attended the convention in force. The MIS meeting drew an overflow crowd on Wednesday afternoon. The meeting featured a judges training program on standard dwarfs, an approved course for AIS credit. Our instructor was Mildred Brizendine, and what a job she did! Mildred's knowledge and ability are second to none and it is sheer delight to hear one of her outstanding presentations. These judging programs are so well received, we plan to continue them at the national conventions.

A convention first was a scheduled meeting of the MIS Board of Directors. This is the one time during the year when it is possible to get everyone together and we propose to make this an annual event. Your MIS officers are in constant touch with one another, but a yearly meeting of the entire Board is highly desirable. As his final duty before stepping down as president, Lee Eberhardt presided at the Board meeting.

Those present in addition to Lee and yours truly were officers Tony Willott and Harry Kuesel, Editor Bee Warburton, Board members Alta Brown and Esther Terrill, Display Garden Chairman Gene Tremmel and By-Laws Chairman Bill Peck.

The entire membership owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Lee for so ably leading the Society as its president, and so willingly extending his service into this year. As he leaves the presidency, it is with our best wishes, and our thanks for a job well done. As immediate past-president, his advice and help will sustain your new president.

When the presidency is vacated at mid-term, the first vice president assumes the presidency, with the second vice president moving up to first vice president. In this instance, according to our bylaws, the MIS Board of Directors appoints a second vice president to fill that vacancy. The Board appointed Earl Roberts and it is great to have Earl once more as a member of the executive team.

Other Board action approved amended Display Garden rules. This involved very little change, but rather an updating. Bylaws changes were approved and are being submitted to the membership as required. The first establishes a Life Membership for MIS members, and the second deals with changing the officers' terms of office so that they will begin on October 1st instead of January 1st. This will move the entire election procedure ahead three months. This proposal is highly desirable and your Board strongly recommends its adoption. Because of the time element involving bylaws changes, this proposal, if adopted, would not become effective until the 1972 election of officers. The Board also affirmed its intention to hold the line on dues and there will be no increase in MIS dues at this time.

MIS was proud again this year of our beautiful convention display. Jean Witt has done a terrific job with this project, as its many admirers will attest. The display traces the medians to their beginnings with beautiful color pictures of the milestones along the way, and also pictures the median award winners of recent years. We owe Jean a huge vote of thanks. We are advised that an article on the display is being prepared for the AIS Bulletin, so watch for this.

I still feel a bit strange wearing the MIS president's "hat," and I must remind myself occasionally that indeed this is now fact. I am fresh from a tremendous experience involving team work—Wichita's national convention was the finest example of teamwork I have been personally involved with. I know too what it means to be a member of the MIS team, as Secretary, 2nd vice president and 1st vice president, and I know there is no finer group. I am honored now to head this team, and I ask each of you for your support during my term.

Carol Ramsey

Membership

Mrs Irving J Russell, 20 Ledgewood Road, Framingham, Mass 01704

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| ☪ SINGLE ANNUAL | \$2.00 | FAMILY ANNUAL | \$2.50 |
| SINGLE TRIENNIAL | 5.00 | FAMILY TRIENNIAL | 6.00 |
| ANNUAL SUPPORTING | 3.00 | | |

Dues are normally sent direct to AIS at the time of AIS membership renewal, and for the same duration as AIS membership. Those wishing to join (or renew) at other times may send dues to the MIS membership chairman, but please, if possible, inform her of your AIS expiration date and/or arrange to join for the entire duration of your AIS membership so that they will expire together in future.

ERRATA: Your membership chairman must have had her head in the clouds when she made her annual report for the April MEDIANITE — some discrepancies have come to light, to wit:

Region 2: Peck, William H, 30 Yellow Cote Rd., Oyster Bay 11771
Zellman, Mrs Robert L, 14 Daniels Pl. (not St.), White Plains 10604.

Region 3: Mrs Elizabeth Rowe (Reg. Rep) becomes:
Seibert, Mrs. Marshall, 200 Juniper Dr., Coreopolis, Pa. 15108

Region 6: Change zipcode numbers for:
Eberhardt, Lee to 45503
Willott, Anthony to 44122
Miami Valley Iris Soc., 1501 S. Maple St., Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Region 14: Central Valley Iris Soc., Mrs Reva Palmer, Pres., 1421 Belmont Ave, Ceres, Ca 95307

Transfer from Region 15 to Region 14, the following:

Hayes, Mrs A Y; Holden, John M; Jones, Carl A; Reese, Mrs Joyce B; Soult, Mrs Robert C.

Region 18: Ramsey, Mr and Mrs. Richard.

Please check your name in the membership list and if there is an error in the entry, please notify
Connie Russell, 20 Ledgewood Rd, Framingham Mass 01701

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Region 4: Crumpler, Mr and Mrs B E, 2521 Wycliffe Ave. SW, Roanoke, Va. 24014
Harp, Mr and Mrs Maynard E, 605 Kingston Rd, Baltimore, Md. 21212 .
Kelley, William, Box 431, Lewisburg, W. Va. 24901
McMullin, Mrs Roberta, 2507 Broad St., Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101

Region 6: Rawdon, D O, 1344 Leaser Ave., Akron, O. 44134

Region 18: Cookson, Mr and Mrs Charles H., 8737 S Hydraulic, Wichita, Kans. 67216
Roach, Mrs Richard, 1800 Brooklyn, Topeka, Kans. 66611

Region 22: Jones, William, 104 Allenhurst, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73114
Smith, Mr and Mrs Hoyt, 138 Ridge Rd, Little Rock, Ark. 72207

Connie Russell

Back Issues

As we go to press we have just three checklists remaining, so the first three comers may have
the previously offered combined package for -----

New members as of July 1st may have the first two issues of 1971 with binder for ----- 13.50
1.00

Missing now are one issue of 1963 and two of 1965. Others are getting close to vanishing and
we will not refund, or notify except in Medianite.

Only four copies of the Prodan, Eupogon Iris Species, remain at ----- 4.00

Members may now buy the Species Clonal Listing for ----- 3.00

Our next combination offer will be all available literature through 1966, special at ----- 8.00

Medianites 1967 through 1971 ----- 6.00

PACKAGE PRICE 13.00

Postage for any mailing .50

Please make checks payable to THE MEDIAN IRIS SOCIETY. Send all orders and checks to:
Publications Chairman: Bee Warburton, RR 2, Box 541, Westboro, Mass. 01581

CANADIAN CAPERS — (as titled by ye ed!)

Albert H Ellis

I was asked by the ESIS Niagara Southwest Area to show pictures of color breaks and just what was available in the smaller irises. Fortunately a number of our hybridizers loaned me slides so I could put on a show, and WHAT a show! In fact, I saw some irises I did not know existed. These slides were shown again at the convention in Wichita, and the only reason the Ohs! and Ahs! were louder was because there were more people there than had showed up in New York State. The various members of the hybridizing clan have done some amazing work in the last few years. If Cook and Douglas could only see what they started, even they would wonder. Those who loaned me slides are so open minded that they had slides of other folks' introductions and thought that these were GOOD. Had it not been for this, I might not have heard of Sam Street's blue iris with a blue halo on its falls, named "Southern Clipper." You who have kept Tinkerbelle and Paltec can now replace them with a much better one. Then again there is Wilma Greenlee's Indian Fires. This I have to see in bloom with others before I say it is the reddest, but it does look that way. Some of you may not know Bennett Jones' Crystal Bay, a BB which just missed by a few votes being the best at the convention. The hybridizers in the Median Section have a lot to be proud about.

Alta Brown has a number of introductions I would like to have. WOW gets that reaction, while her Knockout is to me JUST that. Colorwise we have a RED in Mildred Brizendine's Towncrier that the tall lovers just wish they had. Have you seen her brown plicata as yet unnamed, MB 51-67? Alta Brown has a

very good BB in Apache Gold; Alaskan Gold and Tulare will have to tend to their laurels. The Brown's Iris garden has a number of new irises; they have an iris to suit any taste. Out that way also, Bennett Jones has a large number of seedlings in the BB class that called for my taking their picture. I made a point of looking at all BBs and I feel that this section is really coming into its own. I am a bit plicata-happy; Maybelle Wright's Osage Night is as good as any I have seen recently; while her Miss Ruffles is a very good iris in any class.

MTBs are not all that their enthusiasts wish they were, but they have a few new ones that are superior to what has gone before. Little mention has been made of the SDBs. Mostly they had done their job out Wichita way, though some were still in bloom.

On our way home we stopped at the Roberts Garden in Indianapolis. We were too early for some and too late for others that we knew about. One of his PINK seedlings in BB size called for a picture; it looked as if it had plicata tendencies. Arriving home, we found that cool nights had held some bloom for our return. Those Roberts' plants Platinum Gold and Elfin Silver were trying to outdo one another. A sister seedling of Lenna M was pinker this year than it has ever been before. Yesterday Bee Warburton's Annikins went crazy and bloomed like mad. Sandy Caper and Fancy Caper all looked better this year. Must have been our solid winter - two years in a row we have had snow cover all winter with no frost damage. Dottie Dennis' Marinka bloomed like mad; must take back that remark that it does not bloom here. Wrong again!!

What an excellent time those folk in the Wichita area showed us! I believe this was the largest attended convention that I have ever been to. We were treated royally; some one commented "It is too bad that people cannot get along so pleasantly all the time" and to this I could only add "too bad they do not." The weather Gods took care of THAT area, and the TBs were in full bloom. Those old friends I met again and the new ones made it all so very nice. I learned something - that river in Wichita is the Ar-Kan'sas, NOT the Ar'kansaw. If you call it wrong around Wichita you will get your ears pinned. As stated earlier in this article, all the folk were the cream of humanity; flowers have a mellowing influence, and so does such excellent weather.

JUDGING SESSION — Niagara Southwest Area ESIS and AIS

Mary Pat Engel

On Sunday, April 26, 1971 the Niagara Southwest Area held its regular meeting in the Clarence Town Park Club House. This was followed by a judges training session.

Mr. Albert Ellis, Friendship Robin Chairman of MIS, who has a splendid display garden at Brantford, Ontario, Canada annually visited on our early tours, was the visiting lecturer. He had called on his numerous medianite friends and was able to provide us with slides from the following hybridizers: Mildred Brizendine, Alta Brown, Earl Roberts, Bee Warburton and Jean Witt -- certainly an illustrious list of the finest available.

The lecture was started appropriately with Jean Witt's excellent slide in color of the five classes of median iris. This chart was used to explain in detail the heights, size of flower, type of stem, number of buds and branching, and time of bloom. Albert also stressed the point of approximation and told how too much fertilizer such as manure might make the flower grow out of class, and that sizes might differ according to soil and climate.

Freeman Yendall, former chairman in charge of judges training, manned the projector, while Albert Ellis gave appropriate comments on the slides including names, dates of introduction, hybridizers and such characteristics as color, height, style of standards and particularly of SDB falls. He also mentioned such things as markings, halos and beards as things of particular importance in judging this type of iris.

Mary Pat Engel called attention to photographer Betty Wood's article in the January 1971 issue of THE MEDIANITE where Betty suggested close-up focus on the beard. "Get the beard hairs sharp near the base of the beard and you're doing the best you can." Certainly the ones who made the slides used in this session kept that principle in mind for the hairs stood out prominently enough that they could not fail to be noticed as an added attraction to the bloom. The Wood article covers many facets of flower photography and is well worth reading.

Free Yendall, with his history of scholarly articles on chromosomes and other hybridizing matters for research, supplemented Ellis' remarks with appropriate comments on the chromosome counts, different types of crossing, and how the breeding often resulted in "mules" and why. He also stressed how certain lines of breeding gave particular hereditary traits to their progeny. He stressed that all standards cannot be domed, that due to heredity they may be more open. However, if this type of standard is rigid and holds its first-day opening posture through its bloom, it is satisfactory for that particular type. He

also mentioned the falls, which on iris with onco or aril blood, may be "tucked" but are characteristic and therefore not to be faulted. PLATINUM GOLD has narrower than ideal falls which is a fault, but due to the luminosity of its coloring this iris is still well received, despite this obvious flaw.

Since we sat at long tables, many people made copious notes as what to look for on garden tours and in the auction and what to procure for their gardens. WOW brought just that comment "Wow" from the viewers. Oh's and ah's were heard as people viewed something new to them or some particular color or line of their choice. Judging just can't seem to be entirely removed from particular preferences.

Free and Al both commented on the seedlings, noting the improvements along particular lines and characteristics. Emphasis was stressed on the aims or methods of certain hybridizers as illustrated by their introductions.

REPORT ON EXHIBIT AT GARDEN SHOW — Niagara Southwest Area Mary Pat Engel

Niagara Southwest Area was invited to exhibit at the Wurlitzer Park Garden Club standard show under the auspices of the Federated Garden Clubs of N. Y. State, Inc. and National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. The show was held at the Sutherland Masonic Lodge, 1400 Ruie Rd., North Tonawanda, N. Y., on May 22, 1971.

This invitation was due to the work of Mrs. Louise Duttweiler, our Liaison Chairman for the garden clubs.

We exhibited about thirty pots of miniature and standard dwarf irises, each with an official AIS card on the pot. Several of the pots were so large that at least twenty-four stalks in the clump were in bloom. Beatrice Yendall brought a 3 ft by 5 ft American Iris Society sign which she put on our easel used for that purpose at our shows. Our exhibit took up at least one fourth of the horticultural division.

Plants were supplied by Earle Daum, Mary Pat Engel, Al Wirz and Freeman Yendall. Members were on duty all the time the show was in session. And did we answer questions! "Yes, they are field or garden grown--no special treatment", etc. Atroviolacea was perhaps the only dwarf they had ever seen and they loved the plicatas, pinks, oranges, the red of Cherry Garden, etc., according to individual preference. Literature explaining the society, the date of the auction, membership, etc. were distributed.

When the judges were through, we found to our delight a pink rosette with ribbons and lettering placed in recognition of the exhibit's superiority, indicating that the exhibit is outstanding but has not been judged as it is an invitational class.

A few days ago Al Wirz received from the show chairman a list of the names and addresses of each visitor who signed the guest book. We will use this list to mail invitations to our auction.

Eight pink sheets (Charts from AIS Handbook for Judges and Exhibitions) were given to the garden judges, who are going to use them for their study project at their next monthly meeting. The chart of the medians graphically showing the heights and sizes and the judging scales were of interest to them.

A success for all concerned -- our first attempt at such cooperation.

THE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA MINI-TOUR

Jean Hoffmeister

April 25th? Yes, that's what the notice said, April 25, Mini-Tour. Paul and I, recently transplanted from New Jersey and Region 19, were going to miss our own median garden this year, but here we had a chance to view some medians in our new Region 4. So off we drove some 175 miles from the Eastern Shore in Maryland - our new home - to Virginia. We left on Saturday morning, driving leisurely and reveling in the spring growth of trees and flowers the farther south we drove. Imagine trees almost in their full green coats in April! We drove across that fabulous Chesapeake Bay Bridge which opened around 1964 and is 17 1/2 miles of unbelievable engineering know-how. Right in the middle of the bridge-tunnel complex is a turn-off place for cars to park and view the sights. Paul took several pictures of an aircraft carrier steaming into the Bay. A thrilling experience, to be sure. We finally arrived in our Mini-Tour motel in Norfolk, eager to make new friends and visit the iris gardens on Sunday.

Saturday night was scheduled as a get-together to talk irises (what else?) and to meet the three guest speakers for the program following the garden tour the next day. It was wonderful to see three very familiar faces as we entered the room - Bee Warburton, Ethel Shepherd and Connie Russell! These gals had

planed from Massachusetts to bring slides and information to Region 4. What a fun evening! We met many new irisarians and at first hand discovered what southern hospitality is all about. There were twenty people there from Virginia, of course, - West Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. This is a large region, embracing all these states. Paul and I will have to become adjusted to traveling greater distances to regional meetings. Region 19 is such a small region - just New Jersey and Staten Island, and we're not used to traveling great distances. Bill Kelley is the new RVP and a swell person. We got to know him at the national convention in Wichita. Did you go to the Convention? Perfect, wasn't it? But let's not digress.

We have now skipped over to Sunday at noon time. Someone else will tell you about the lovely gardens we visited - Rena Kizziar's and Anne Lee's - in the morning. Yes, they were well worth traveling to see. About 36 people gathered together for an extra good dinner back at the motel. After dinner, Fred Ward, chairman of our host chapter, introduced the honored speakers. Bee Warburton gave the subject title for the three talks, "What's Good and Bad in Medians." Bee, herself, led off the trio with information and slides on standard dwarfs and border bearded irises. In her inimitable style, she can impart knowledge of the medians with no pain whatsoever and a great deal of pleasure. Two SDBs she showed we must have for our garden are Keith Keppel's Footnote, and Earl Roberts' Garnet Star. Next Ethel Shepherd showed slides and discussed the good and bad points of the intermediates and table irises. The best intermediate, in my opinion, (and we all have those) is Annikins. Connie Russell ended the program with a bonus - onco and arilbreds. Paul and I grow some of these and are always eager to see pictures of those we wish we owned. And so ended a most enjoyable and informative Mini-Tour. Good food, wonderful people, beautiful gardens and lovely weather! Who could ask for more?

NORFOLK MINI-TOUR GARDENS 1971

Jerry Barnard

Perfect weather greeted the out-of-towners assembled for the Sunday median tour at the Admiralty Motel in Norfolk, Virginia on April 25, 1971. Joined by more local irisarians, the group descended upon Rena Kizziar's fully populated mini-garden, and the enthusiastic populus was turned out in fine fashion to greet their inspectors.

Leading off the parade in the first oval bed near the garden gates was clever Zing, which grows here as an MDB, but has still snapped up the SDB awards. Looming up behind that blue-bearded, old gold classic was a drift of Tell's Border Cream (IB) to go along with the always rapidly disappearing Blueberry Muffins (Warburton SDB). Do wish these muffins didn't offer themselves so freely; leaves little ingredients for next year. Glowing nearby was Bee's twelve-year breeding prodigy, Laced Lemonade (SDB 1969) to whet one's thirst for one of the elusive traits in the dwarfs - lace. The name is an apt description of this well-formed variety. Barbi (IB) and the Water Nixie (AR) were nodding in the breeze toward Spring Fern and its generous offering of white with olive thumbs (SDB). Barbi in yellow, and Water Nixie in blue and blue-green tones, were a good foil for IB Oriental Baby's fine clump of white standards and brownish red falls with white border. Playing umpire for this bed was the bigger Rose Harmony (IB). Tomingo, Roberts' fine 1966 brown-red self, was in good proportion in this bed, but had found some Wheaties in another bed. Closing out this bed were a flurry of well-formed and branched Blueketas (IB) and a veritable mound of the white Astralite, an IB closer to dwarf dimensions here.

First in the latticed entrance to the circular bed was Hager's Regards, which was all red-violet thumbs as the foliage hid under the mass of bloom. Little more than a step away was Moon Step, an interesting pastel progeny of an old favorite, Snow Elf, and virile Blueberry Muffins. More outspoken was Moonblaze (SDB), in tan-beige and lavender splashed down the falls, in a finely formed vehicle of a flower. Screaming in frustration for having been overlooked from the first bed were Loudmouth, a veined SDB red, and How Now, the older but unique aqua-thumbed white SDB. Still smoldering were the first coal-toned Ebony Embers, in a full IB clump of stalks, with a knurled blue-black wide flower, my personal favorite for the day. Keeping at a safe distance were the floating blooms of Pale Cloud, a fine Keppel IB from 1968, plicated in feathery sky blue.

Still in the same lodging area, the first link of Daisy Chain (SDB) was complete in clean yellow and dark brown-eyed falls. Echoing Regards' sentiments (and color pattern) were SDBs April Flirt, in a few shades lighter with more blue influence, and Fairy Ballet, from Helen Sarro 1968, SDB, more lavender toned. The consistent good showing of the yellows was in evidence by SDBs Gleaming Gold, oldie but goodie Golden Fair, Pippa Passes, Funtime, Blonde Doll, bitoned Pamela Ann, Mustard Spot, and growing here in MDB style, Sunrise Buttercup. These cultivars all displayed good form and width in various tones of the sun color. Equally impressive as a class are the numerous fine blues, such as Alta Brown's classic (but reluctant increaser) Sky Baby, Bee Warburton's rival Lady of 1968, the pale bearded Angel Music, the very pale flushed Blue Ivory, serrated edge Butterfly Blue, and finally the pleasant amoena, Bright Delight from Randolph, which is one iris that looks natural with open standards. A new addition, reminiscent of the Greta Garbo of TBs, Melodrama, is Dunbar's 1970 Buddha Song. The full globular parts almost disguise the surprisingly narrow hafts, which flare out immediately into very wide falls. The size of the

bloom was out of proportion for an MDB, but Cottontail, yellow and cream beard, and Irish Whisper, white with yellow thumbprinted falls, were in fine shape for MDBs.

Singling out some four-star achievers for uniqueness, in the rising mound bed on the other side of the garden we have SDBers: Foot Note, Sky Bolt, and Green Haze. The first is a bright contrasty am-oena (stands pale blue to white, falls rich violet), the second light blue with tan-gold-hafted shoulder markings, and the last a greenish cream self. Another SDB which was imposing for quality was Bennett Jones' 1970 Cotton Blossom. Done in cream white, wide ruffled perfection of form, and of good proportion, it was nonetheless very modest in bettering another Jones seedling growing next to it, #M-197-7, which carried a slight bit more of a yellow infusion in the center of the flower. Equally impressive in the intermediate class, was Alta Brown's terrific June Prom, in light blue and especially wide form. And finally, Doll Apron curtsied farewell for Rena Kizziar and her remarkable garden, in a well-formed flower bearing an abbreviated plicata pattern in blue on the clear white petals. There were still many varieties to bloom for Rena, and she had a fine bed of tall bearded already popping buds from the lush foliage, to extend the Iris season.

The well-manicured lawn gave early indication of what a perfectionist gardener Dr. Anne Lee personifies. Everything is planted with great care and utilizes functional planning which results in maximum use of the limited space and gives the impression of a much larger garden than the actual dimensions present. A multi-faceted gardener is reflected in the widely diversified plantings, while exceptional taste and knowledge of her plant materials maintains a highly naturalized effect. The prominent plants at this time were the stunning sweeps of azaleas and rhododendrons which invited one into the transitional woodsy paths which lead to another panorama of azaleas and rhododendrons. The path beds were inhabited by primroses, trilliums, may apples, and interesting vine materials, with background hollies. In the garden area containing the pond, one noted the fine double white tulips, the unusual variegated foliage of the Red Riding Hood tulips, and the clever use of sculpture in Dr Lee's black praying mantis, affectionately known as "Jennifer," and the turtle grown in "baby tears." Dr Lee explained her gardening secret to be stern admonitions to the plants to "do your stuff!"

Employing a fine screen bed to separate the halves of the rear plantings into two distinct garden areas displayed good landscaping insight. Plantings here included camellias, Japanese Maple, and dogwood, and the irises started at the midpoint of the two sections and swept around in a border interspersed with amiable companion plants to the front again. More primroses, violas, and violets were befriended by Spring Fern, Knotty Pine (many brown blooms here in coffee tones), Gleaming Gold, Blue Denim, Pastel Gem and other dwarfs. Of especial interest here were Orange Caper, the fine orange SDB from Bee Warburton, and Velvatin, clear yellow with dark and evenly rounded and solid spot pattern of deep brown velvet on the falls. Other varieties described from the Kizziar garden and also growing well here were Doll Apron, Daisy Chain, Loudmouth, etc. An older SDB growing IB size here was Moonbright, a lemon yellow bitone with the falls edged in the lighter standard shade, which clumped nicely, played finale for the irises.

Providing the finishing touches to Dr Lee's garden were several specimen plants such as the Ilex pernyi cultivar, and a proud, tall twelve-year Cunninghamia, adroitly used as a telephone-pole-hider. Dr Lee's hostesses attested to her horticultural knowledge, which she shares in regular sessions with her neighbors. As Dr Lee waved the red flag, the guests were reluctant to leave a garden so serene that one expected Beethoven's Pastorale Symphony to sing out in praise of the fine spring day.

NORTHEAST OHIO IRIS SOCIETY — Early Iris Meeting and Show

Barbara Whitehouse

On Saturday, May 8, 1971, the Northeast Ohio Iris Society and the Akron Area Iris Society, in association with the American Iris Society, sponsored an Early Iris Show at the Independence, Ohio, Town Hall. In spite of the cold, dry weather which had made bloomtime very late in the area, several varieties of miniature dwarf irises, some species irises, and a few standard dwarfs were presented to the judges, who were Lee Eberhardt, then President of the MIS; Elsie Zuercher, President of the Dwarf Iris Society; and Bee Warburton, Editor of the Medianite. Your reporter felt that the entries in the potted classes were the most interesting. Miniature and standard dwarfs appear at their best with their own foliage and in the company of other varieties of irises or with companion miniature plants.

Due to lack of bloom, many of the entries in the arrangement classes were made with Dutch irises from the florist, but this added difficulty was overcome by the floral artists who competed in nine separate classes intriguingly named after dwarf irises.

A banquet on Saturday evening brought the official ceremonies to a close with a most delicious roast beef dinner followed by speeches by Lee Eberhardt, speaking on the history and development of the Median Iris Society, and by Mrs Zuercher, who spoke on the development of miniature dwarf irises. Mrs Warburton spoke briefly of the two new MIS publications, the translation of Prodan, and the Check List of Eupogon Iris Species in Cultivation.

On Sunday, visits to the lovely gardens of Mr and Mrs Anthony Willott and Mr and Mrs J E McClintock rounded off a most enjoyable weekend.

The Spring meeting of the Northeast Median Iris Society was to have been held on May 16 at the home of Fred and Mary Gadd, as announced in the April issue of THE MEDIANITE.

Unfortunately, the weather was uncomfortably wet that day and the season was so late that there were almost no median irises in bloom; consequently, very few people were brave enough (or foolhardy enough) to come out. So, lacking a "quorum," the President and Vice President decided on the spot to cancel out the scheduled meeting.

NEMIS members, please be advised that the time and place of the fall meeting will be announced at a later date. If any one has a preference in this matter, please notify Mrs I J Russell, 20 Ledgewood Road, Framingham, Mass. 01701.

Also, please be advised that no median auction is planned for this summer, due to a shortage of stock to be auctioned.

Convention 1971

Introductory

As AIS Conventions go, and Medianites always fare well, the 1971 Wichita Convention was a most memorable event, and we celebrate it here with a special section. Our own Madame Incoming President was its general secretary, a post not second even to that of the general chairman in its workload and the diversity of tasks and problems such as only the heroic can face and overcome. In her message she has told us something about its rewards; we congratulate her for having enough courage still to take us on without even a pause, and we will try to make her term of office equally memorable.

Wichita is a major center of median interest, with one of the most experienced early iris shows in the country, so that all the gardens have median irises in some quantity; one, of course, is Carol Ramsey's Median Display Garden, and Lucy Fry's is a specialist small-iris garden, which Chairman Gené Tremmel promptly added to our growing list of Display Gardens. Lucy's varietal comment is also reprinted from the convention Bulletin in this issue.

We are also happy to print Mildred Brizendine's judges training lecture which she delivered at the Median meeting. Mildred is Director of Standard Dwarf Bearded robins and a notable hybridizer. Her Little Reb is a fine dark BB plicata, and Zing and Shine Boy are SDB classics in bright tan-gold and near black. Region 18 has a number of other experienced Medianites, including Allen and Bertha Harper — Allen did the fine article about MTBs which we also reprint from the Region 18 Bulletin. Also from Kansas is Esther Terrill, who is one of our Directors, and Herby Graves, who guest-edited our arilmedian issue recently. It was good to see Herby well enough to attend the convention, and he seemed well on the road to recovering his famous wry humor. Leda Christlieb, Chairman of the AIS Robin program, is also a Kansan, and a Medianite who specializes in arilmedians. John Ohl, most senior iris citizen, has registered median irises; in Missouri, Stanley Street's arilmedians are justly famous, and Bob and Evelyn Minnick also have a Median Display Garden. It was good to see the promising seedlings from the newer hybridizers such as Bob Jeffries, W F Brown, Floyd Dyer, Mary Heisz, the Puetts, and Dave Niswonger. And Helen Reynolds, who took over responsibility for the Sass irises when Henry retired, has introduced several medians including the BB Girl Guide, and the new SDB, Tiddledywinks.

As for the irises, they were superb, and the weather was perfect. A lucky chance brought me to Wichita a day early so that I was able to enjoy a leisurely visit to Watson Park with President Lee Eberhardt while many of the Medians there were in good bloom.

The story of Watson Park is one that bears retelling, for it was built from an area along the Big Arkansas (ArKANzus) River which had been blighted by sand-removal operations. The result is a fine naturalistic park with a chain of crystal lakes in a setting of trees and grassy slopes. The irises were planted in beds around the edges of a finger of land among the lakes, near the entrance to the park, and were growing beautifully. Near the entrance, the first bed held just three irises, the miraculous tetraploid, JAKE'S BLUE, and the two diploids Jacob Sass is said to have grown at the time, flavescens and Honorabile. We wouldn't feel that the miracle was blunted any if, as we've heard said, Jake Sass had acquired a cypriana type in time for the bees to do their work! Beyond this bed were the median beds, so leaving the TBs for a later visit, I hastened to see. There were even some standard dwarfs still out — not that these belated stalks do much justice to flowers that need a clump to show off. Actually, if these were all I ever saw I'd never buy an SDB!

Many intermediates were still in good bloom, among them Lillipinkput, reliable as always in its salmon-flesh tones; the excellent red, Light Cavalry; Isle of Dreams in icy blue-white; Happy Mood, the lightly marked plicata with the extra bud count; Orange Riot, plus for bright color; Bluebird's Song, in two shades of blue with nice blue beards (Jeffries 1970), and a grape purple Jeffries seedling - J-66-15A - with clean velvet falls.

When it comes to the border irises, the dismaying truth is that a large majority of the plants being sold, grown, and judged in that classification are overlarge. Peg Edwards' clever suggestion for quick measuring... how long your hand span?... how far from fist to bent elbow?... how high to your knee?... proved out that for me, from flat feet (sneakers, that is) to fingertip is just 27 inches, and that turned out to be much more useful to me than the 36-24-36 could ever have been... (when I was young we flattened ourselves into slats.) One could certainly allow border irises to stretch to 30 inches, especially at conventions, if their norm were lower, but there seem to be a preponderance of 30-inch or taller ones with nicely balanced flowers, and they are beautiful and desirable plants, and indeed very useful plants; but if they are admitted as border irises, the end result would be that they would win all the awards and we would end up with nothing but small tall bearded in our border class. Meanwhile, in their own TB class they are ignored, for it's just human nature that TBs get points for large size, and nobody is going to "waste" any TB votes on runts. We COULD, of course, have a shorty TB class with its own awards, and a very fine class it would be, but NOT in the Medians.

Ben Jones' Crystal Bay, white with blue-edged falls, was perfect and soothed his discouragement with the class. May Belle Wright's Ruffled Cherub was one of the fine "small TBs," but she isn't giving up yet, she says. Her Miss Ruffles is a blue and cream that usually stays well in class. Lace Valentine has been well in class everywhere, and though pale, is a clean pink and lacy. Girl Guide seems usually in class, a grayed blue with brown shoulders and smoky beard, descended from Jungle Shadows, which does tend to overgrow, as do several of the Knowlton Medal winners. Many in the Park were growing too large as I soon learned because of sidling up to each plant with my ever-ready measure. It would be too bad to condemn them on that one instance, but some that I noted as being otherwise fine were Vallie Echo, yellow with white blaze and tangerine beard which seemed to have nice manners, Mexicali, bright variegata-plicata with yellow stands and brown markings redder at the shoulders, in extra fine shape; violet-blue Miniskirt; and Rosie O' Tee.

When we toured the Watson Park beds again the last day of convention there were still many medians to be seen—the border and table irises mostly, of course. A very dark violet-blue seedling of Steve Varner's, #840, has near black falls. Olive Cocktail, the oddly blended smoky greenish-tan with brown beard was out full, and in size. Dorothy Mae is a shapely plicata, nicely marked—the parentage is intermediate, but it is registered as BB. Pink Darling was showing its sugar-pink flowers, and apricot Dashing Deb was flashing its heavy red beard. Bride's Pearls was still blooming, and Crystal Bay was perfect. If we only had a range of colors in this size and proportion we'd be IN. So many others with praises in my notes but with the sad words... "gorgeous large flowers on short stems"... "TB-size flowers"... "big flowers 35"... "36" overlarge nice"... "20" huge flrs, fine ruf."... the sad part of it is, many undoubtedly DID conform before they left home.

The MTBs also showed a number of varieties much too tall, but at times, if they sprout additional stem THEIR flowers seem to remain on the small side, giving a leggy effect. Of those that did fit, Carolyn Rose was an excellent plicata, and Opal Imp a nice white; Flashing Beacon is a well-branched variegata. Dancing Gold always looks right with its clean yellow and white pattern.

The home gardens were beautiful, and we'll ignore the taboo against printing the name of any iris without a brief description, to some extent at least. Following the alphabetical listing in the convention booklet, first is the Bartlett Arboretum, and I won't attempt to describe this fabulous acreage, many years in the development. Someone will do it justice in the AIS Bulletin surely. The visit here allowed no more than a tantalizing glimpse of all the plant life growing there. In the MTBs, Carolyn Rose and Dainty Dove showed well. Mildred Brizendine's border seedling, MB-51-67, was an odd tan with brown beard. Bride's Pearls was (were?) good, and well in class. Blooming in Bed E for dwarfs and medians were a number of Alta's Arctics - Arctics Beacon, Breeze, Fancy, Myst and Night; and Gypsy Smokey, Isle of Dreams, and June Prom.

Interesting to Medianites was the historical iris garden at Cowtown, with its many little oldies—Grandma's old flags—many of which may actually be seen still in country gardens. It is always a pleasure to see Princess Beatrice which enchanted me as a child, and Mme Chereau which I adored, and which first informed me that not all irises were purple... OR short!

At the El Dorado gardens I was delighted to talk with Henry Sass whom I hadn't met before. I spent most of the time here admiring a border-sized seedling in the "fancy" pattern which was handsome, but to my consternation I learned that when moved to another part of the garden it had grown up, and in the large size had lost its special charm. Helen Reynolds' median introductions are interesting breaks, like many of the Sass irises she took over; Henry said that "breaks" were what the Sassses looked for, and followed up in their breeding.

The Fry garden is a new planting specializing in small bearded, and in it was no dearth of flowers. Dawn Favour, yellow with pale blue beard, is not often seen in American gardens. Blue Asterisk still looks fine with deeper blue halo on pale blue. Little Sir Echo is such a pleasing red, though actually in the small

TB class, as was Fairy Jewels, with its lovely lacy yellow edge on creamy white. Sputnik is a good BB plic, and the golden yellow Tulare looked fine. Good intermediates Border Cream and the fine white, Little Angel were showing off, and even Fashion Lady and Bee Wings, miniature dwarfs, were showing blooms as were Shine Boy, Blueberry Muffins and Dancing Bee in the SDBs, and creamy Sugar, deep blue-violet Annikins and lacy yellow Lime Ripples in the IBs. Little Empress in pale yellow and white was excellent.

In the Harris garden Tulare looked beautiful; and we were pleased to see the unique hybrid, Paltec, growing well, and the MTBs Honorable, Meadowlark and Cottage Maid. The Jendels had Smarty Pants growing in a nice clump, typical variegata pattern, and here as elsewhere Nineveh was distinct and doing well, with its brown-red aril-looking flowers large on short stalks which is accepted as different and exotic on aril-type plants. Here the brick paths lined with tall bearded led to a Dykes Medal display with other interesting types from the past, always a pleasure to see. Especially noted was Balkan Glacier as a must-have, a new one and the first of the advanced generation hybrids from I. balkana which, though probably from the same genetic source as the Progenitor patterns, show distinct variations of dark "blot" patterns in the falls.

The Jones garden is an extensive one, and here as elsewhere median seedlings from the region's hybridizers showed promise. W F Brown had a number of which I noted 64-20 as a yellow green. Floyd Dyer's DS-0293 I noted as "like Meadowlark," and his D-137-67 as rosy with tangerine beard. Verna Mae Ewing's 63-32C was a pink growing rather large for BB. In fact, most of the varieties showing here, including the tall bearded, were rather tall, perhaps because of the high shade. Spring Prelude, Lillipink-put, and the blue-whiskered white Cutie were still in bloom along with many of Alta Brown's Arctics and some of her others, Happy Mood, Jungle Kid and Lime Ripples.

At John Ohl's garden everybody was stopped by a lovely dark BB plicata - #27-69. Mildred Brizendine assured us that it stayed in class, and it was the star of the garden. At the Paulens I noted Drummer Boy, which is one of the latest of all irises and doesn't really qualify as IB, but is a good companion to its sister, Cutie.

The Ramseys grow so many medians, and so many were still in bloom, that we could never do their garden justice. A lone flower of Melba Hamblen's new SDB, Pansy Top, rich bitone violet, was showing, and Annikins was easily 31 in. tall - a number of others had also overgrown. Azure Echo was of lovely form in pale yellow standards, deeper falls with faint blue centers, and deep blue beard. Brownie Scout is definitely not a border iris anywhere. Wilma Greenlee's Frilly, white with gold shoulders, and Heavenly Star in pearly white, were good here. Carnival Glass, blended gold-brown, and Crystal Bay, looked fine.

The Torreys' garden must be later because we noted Regards as having 6 flowers and looking adorable, and Velvet Touch in rich violet with 10 flowers. Moonchild, the lovely red-violet arilbred intermediate, looked fine here as everywhere. On Sunday Bill McGarvey took me back to see this garden again and I found Quail, which I had written down the first time as "messy," now looking adorably perky. It is a tiny thing, SDB in height, with truly brown standards and brown markings in the falls.

At the Walls' I noted the fine TBs, and their garden was notable for me as a chance to study the "fancy" pattern in Dear Dora which has very bright color, and for Honorable against the garage. I've seen it this year from Kansas to Maine, and greeted it as an old friend.

Your editor is left with the lamentable feeling of not having done justice, but if we had assigned a reporter for each garden, as we wish we had, this issue would be overstuffed even without any recognition of the magnificently grown tall bearded.

CINDERELLA STORY

(Reprinted from Region 18 Iris Bulletin, Special Convention Issue)

Allen Harper

Miniature Tall Bearded Iris, Table Iris to many of us, are at last emerging as an established Section of the Median Iris complex. First discovered and "christened" Table Iris by Mrs. Ethel Anson S. Peckham, from a scattered group of seedlings in the Williamson garden at Bluffton, Indiana, these dainty charm-ers had remained since 1934 merely interesting curiosities in the iris family until quite recently.

MTB's, by definition, are Bearded Iris, between 15 and 28 inches in height, with very slender (pencil sized) stems, and proportionately small flowers. In order to retain a distinctive entity to this class, rather rigid size requirements have been laid down. Flower size must not exceed six inches in combined height and breadth, preferably in a ratio of about 2-1/2 inches in height and 3-1/2 inches in circumference. Branching should approach that of Tall Bearded Iris, and season of bloom will generally fall within the range of the early Tall Bearded, although this is not a requirement of the class.

It is quite presumptuous of the writer to essay this article, as his actual experience with the class is limited, but great enthusiasm for Table Iris has prompted us to do considerable paper research on the subject. Our first hand interest developed from a cross made by Mrs Harper in the mid-40's of Apache X Pink Ruffles which produced a number of seedlings of MTB caliber, of which we kept two, registering one, Jennifer, in 1959. This promptly outgrew its class when sent elsewhere for trial, but it prompted our desire to produce something from it or its sib that would remain within the class limits. An overdose of other activity has, in the meantime, restricted the pursuit of our goals, though we do have some seed and seedlings now which show at least some progress and promise.

While space is really too critical for us to editorialize, we would like to comment briefly here and then get on with a review which we hope will stimulate your interest in the breed. Because daintiness is the one basic "raison d'etre" for the Table Iris, limits must be more strictly applied than in other classes. It has been suggested by many that height limits be reduced to 25 inches, chiefly because so many of the taller registrations have exceeded the 28 inch limit after wider distribution. It would seem that on more careful analysis the same problem would arise with a lower height limit, i.e., registrations in the upper range, say from 23 to 25 inches, in some seasons or in some areas might easily exceed the new limit. This, then, would place these varieties in a classification limbo, since their other attributes would not make them suitable playmates for the Borders, into which class they would be transferred. I would prefer to have all such "borderline" varieties given a tentative classification according to the hybridizers appraisal, and final acceptance based on the findings of an MTB panel, much as the Aril Society determines the Arilbred eligibles. I would also favor some relaxation in the flower size limits, particularly in the taller sorts, and would prefer to see limits based on ratio of flower height to size say 1 to 4. This would put 7" flower (3" x 4") on a 28" stem, a 5-1/4" flower (2-1/4" x 3") on a 21" stem, or a 4-1/4" flower (1-7/8" x 2-3/8") on a 17" stem.

Now, for the conversion of our "orphan" of early days to the Cinderella of the 1970's, consider this rationale of progress. For the MTB's, four dates stand out as milestones. 1934 marked the introduction of the greater number of the Williamson Tables, which as lists following will show, dominated the Table Iris picture until the last decade. In 1952, the name "Miniature Tall Bearded" was proposed by Lee Lenz, and adopted by the AIS. The renaissance of the MTB was prompted by the almost single-handed work of Alice White, who rescued them from near oblivion in the early 50s.

1958 marks the effective year of the Median Iris Society organization and recognition, and the first published Yearbook of this group lists in its Preliminary Classification Report all those varieties and species considered to fall in the classification of Miniature Tall Bearded Iris. This list comprises six species and 24 named clones, of which 19 had been introduced before 1949. Here, too, was published the first Median Symposium, listing ten MTB's which I am sure are familiar to you all. Pewee, Tom Tit, Widget, Daystar, Warbler, Kinglet, Two for Tea, Sherwin-Wright, Kaleidoscope and Bunting were the top ten. Comparison with succeeding symposia will point up strongly the slow rate of progress in this class, for even as late as 1969 the Symposium list still carries SIX of the original ten among its fifteen selections.

In 1966, under the guidance of Bennett Jones, Classification Chairman, and Alice White, MTB Section Chairman, the most recent compilation of accepted MTB varieties was published. It lists 61 varieties, of which seven were doubtful, plus seven species. Statistically it is interesting to note that of this group only twelve were introduced from 1949 to 1958, increasing to 25 from 1959 to 1965. Since then registrations have advanced encouragingly, with 53 new varieties listed from 1965 through 1969.

Perhaps the greatest deterrent to advances in MTB breeding as compared with work in other sections was the early opinion that Table Iris were merely chance appearances from TB breeding, that they were difficult to breed, and that a true breeding line could not be established by using Table Iris as primary breeding stock. On the first count, Jean Witt points out that *I. variegata* was used extensively in the Williamson breeding programs, and *variegata* is one of the prime foundation stocks for the line. Secondly, while many Table varieties do not seed readily, most of them carry viable pollen, and seed production has been effected through the use of no fewer than 27 registered MTB varieties, plus four or five MTB seedlings.

Another delay in progress was that the discovery of the Tables occurred almost at the height of the transmigration of the Tall Bearded from diploid to tetraploid, and most of the serious breeders were bent on that path. Had a comparable effort been expended on the development of our love, at least 25 years of time might have been gained.

Because of the strong influence of *I. variegata* on MTB breeding plus a surmised background of *I. pallida*, a wide range of color has not yet been obtained. Here then, is both the promise and the challenge. Up to 1965, color and pattern variations were restricted almost entirely to blues, plicatas, variegatas, yellows and whites. Since then, breeding efforts have produced some near pinks, bronze to browns, reverse bicolors and a few violets.

We are, I am sure, on the threshold of great new advances in Tables. Had this section been blessed with the vigorous activity attending the development of other median iris we would long since have seen greater use of the species indicated in "Garden Irises" and confirmed by the Median Classification Committee. Admittedly, development from the species is slow, painstaking work, and results cannot be hoped for until perhaps the third or fourth generation. Some of the recommended species have not been available to American breeders, at least until very recently, and time is further needed to study species compatibility.

This work is being done by several serious MTB breeders, and you need only to view the originations of Brown, Dunderman, Guild, Hager, Kavan, Roberts, Witt and Welch to appreciate what has been done to bring "respectability" to the Tables. There are others, among the Mahood, Rundlett, Sturdevant, Torbett, Tufts, Craig, Street, M. Brizendine, Williams, Foden, et al, whose efforts have been mostly of shorter duration but who are on the way toward expanding the scope of our little beauty, and from whom we will hear good things in ever increasing abundance.

Tetraploid breeding has reached the point of successful production, Ben Hager having introduced four to date. So far, the tetraploid development has come through I. aphylla, but there are some encouraging indications that other species will soon be involved in coming introductions. It is a bit anomalous, on the other hand, that more Tables have been produced from DB species than from MTB. Such dwarfs as I. imbricata, mellita, aphylla, rubromarginata, bosniaca and olbiensis have influenced Table development, whereas the true MTB species are represented only by I. variegata, reginae and pallida with its variant illyrica. Not yet used successfully are I. cengialti, perrieri and rudskyi, though this is not surprising since the latter two are even now not described in any of the AIS Checklists.

We do not have at hand a list of the new MTB's which might be seen in the Wichita gardens, but we suggest you keep your eyes peeled and notebook handy for such recent introductions as Alta Brown's Dainty Damsel, Dunderman's Charlie Brown and Claire Louise, Guild's Bit O' Afton, Sparkle Brite and Whispering Sprite; Little Me and Shrinking Violet from Hager, Kemp's Dani Grace and Rosegay, Robert's Mockingbird and Painted Rose, Welch's Blue Trimmings and Topsy Turvy (my favorite at the N.Y. meeting) and from Jean Witt, Dottie and Ice Fairy.

Worthy of investigation but too new yet to be rated generally are the following: Brown's Dainty Dove, a white with blue influence; Dunderman's Jana White, another cool white; Bright 'N' Gay and Brown Lassie from Lucille Kavan; orange yellow Prism-Lites and violet plic Talks To You by Aleen Kemp; Drady's Girl, a veined amoena and Florific, white over rose purple, by Leona Mahood and Jean Witt's light lavender Chambray and violet plic Outward Bound. We cannot complete the list of promising new Tables without mentioning creations of our own Region 18 members. Mildred Brizendine has registered Dancing Gold, a full yellow with white blaze at haft, and Fairy Dust, white with just a hint of blue plicata dusting; Sam Street has Copper Strike, a light copper blend to his credit, and Marcella Torbett has come up with French Tones, a greyed violet-yellow bicolor.

While this written word may well not stimulate many of you to go all out immediately for the Tables, we do hope it will suggest to you a warm acquaintance with them. We feel certain that you will fall in love with their charm and daintiness, as we have. If you are at all a hybridizer at heart, we feel sure you will recognize a great future in store for advancement of the breed, and surely there is no more promising field than one in which the competition is so limited.

VARIETAL COMMENTS (Reprinted from Region 18 Iris Bulletin, Spring 1971)

Lucy Fry

It is agonizing to write an article on Medians (or any article for that matter) because there are so many fine iris that merit our attention. After looking over my own notes about bloom seen here in Wichita, in home and Convention gardens; in Topeka at the Brizendines; and at the Milwaukee Convention I suggest that all Median "fans" be on the lookout for these iris in gardens this spring. They have all done well in Region 18.

Standard Dwarfs

BLOOD SPOT (Tim Craig '66) dark red with deeper red spot.

BONGO (Alta Brown '66) lavender/blue with red-violet spot, orange beard. Unique!

IRISH LILT (Alta Brown '66) cream-white/greenish falls, cream beard. The closest to green that we have grown. Well named flower.

PEANUTS (Hager '66) cream/cream with brown overlay, violet beard.

BLUE MOSS (Bennett Junes '67) blue/blue with olive wash. Nice form.

CHERRY GARDEN (Jones '67) bing cherry red. Grows with too large a flower, but with the color and form it has, who cares?

LAVENDER LASS (A. Brown '67) clean, clear lavender with a faint veining of a darker violet accenting the lavender beard.

LEMON DREAM (A. Brown '67) light yellow/deeper yellow falls with light yellow rim and bright yellow beard.

LITTLE BLACKFOOT (Reinhardt '67) glistening red black of excellent form, tailored.

PINK CUSHION (A. Brown '67) really pink with no hint of yellow and lighted by a tangerine beard. This bloomed so profusely this year that we lost it, but it's one we will replace.

PLATINUM GOLD (Roberts '67) lemon yellow/white with deep yellow spot around white beard, narrow edge of lemon.

RED HEART (A. Brown '67) blue-violet/red-violet with lavender rim and beard.

REGARDS (Hager '67) smoky orchid/maroon with orchid beard.

ROYAL FAIRY (A. Brown '68) Royal purple/velvety royal purple falls with a lighter rim, violet beard. Beautiful form and puts on a terrific show in the garden.

TEBBY DARE (Wolff '68) yellow/yellow with brown blaze, yellow beard.

BLACK BIT (A. Brown '69) deep red-black, slightly lighter at edge, orange beard.

GINGERBREAD MAN (B. Jones '69) smooth brown self with blue beard. On first year bloom the flower was large but should be better next year. It has a lot of class to it.

SILKIE (Hager '69) smooth dark violet-purple self with lavender beard.

SKY BOLT (A. Brown '69) ruffled blue, olive flush around blue beard. Color is clear and the olive acts as a high-light for the beard.

TOWER GROVE (Wolff '69) white with yellow hafts.

Intermediates

ARCTIC NIGHT (A. Brown '66) velvety red-black.

INDIAN FIRE (Greenlee '68) clean red with darker red spot. I like this better than Indian Doll which is a red self. Indian Fire seems to me to be a more intense red and to me more attractive.

TWILIGHT SONG (A. Brown '66) Blue-violet/red-violet, lighter at edge, ivory beard. Flaring form.

VISTA (J. Taylor '69) pale blue/red-brown, lighter rim, orange beard. Different and most attractive.

ANNIKINS (Warburton '67) deep blue-purple self with excellent branching.

JUNE PROM (A. Brown '67) ruffled light blue, greenish hafts around blue beard. Makes a beautiful clump of tilting flowers.

ROSE HARMONY (A. Brown '68) rosy-orchid with deeper falls. This one is hard to describe. To me it hasn't enough red in it to be called "rose" and yet it isn't violet or blue. Good performer, so decide for yourself what color.

BLUE VISION (A. Brown '69) ruffled light blue.

CHARM SONG (A. Brown '69) ruffled violet.

Border Bearded

BROWN FLARE (Judy '66) golden-brown, perky form.

JUNIOR PROM (Ghio '68) ruffled pale blue or white, depending on the year. A well proportioned iris.

LITTLE MARK (Quadros '66) lovely mulberry and white plic. A real change from the more numerous blue and white.

DARK TOPIC (A. Brown '67) red-black with a bronze beard.

KNEE HIGH (Noyd '67) white with a coral beard. Just enough accent to captivate.

LITTLE SUSIE (Quadros '67) white/pink with a tangerine beard. Registered in '67 and introduced in '70.

RUFFLED CHERUB (Wright '68) ruffled white with a yellow beard.

HALF A PEACH (Muhlestein '69) apricot self with slightly darker apricot beard.

MOLTEN GLASS (Marsh '69) Listed as orange but difficult to describe. Jim and I agree that we see it as more muted, more a melon-orange. It is still a clean iris and one we have "had to have" since we first saw it.

Miniature Tall Bearded

DANI GRACE (Kemp '68) blue and white plic that puts out an outstanding display in a garden clump.

DRADY'S GIRL (Mahood '68) white/dark violet with white blaze run through with dark violet veining. Another good in a garden clump.

SHRINKING VIOLET (Hager '66) dark violet self of great form and better than usual branching.

So much work remains to be done on MTBs. They seem harder to establish in a clump and until they are in a clump they seem not equal to the task of being true miniatures. Either the flower is too big or there is no good branching. There are other late introductions that show promise, i. e., Kemp's Sweet Helen, Guild's Flashing Beacon, A. Brown's Dainty Damsel, but I have not seen them in an established clump.

My nomination for most overlooked Medians would be BBs Rosie O'Tee (Tucker '64) a miniature Mary Randall; Lace Valentine (Warburton '65) pale pink that is beginning to catch on; Mildred Brizendine's Ebony Embers ('65) is a very dark red-violet that really does seem to smoulder with a hidden fire; Topsy Turvy, MTB (Welch '63), yellow/white with an orange beard.

Judging The Standard Dwarf Iris

Mildred Brizendine

Away last September, I received a letter from Lee Eberhardt saying, "Would like to ask you to handle the Judges Training Session on SDBs at Wichita. If you have any questions, ask Carol. I'm on my way to Japan." Now what do you think about that for a sneaky way to get someone to do a job for you? Not a chance to defend myself. I just laid the letter aside and said to myself, "I'll deal with him later!" Every month or so I got a letter from Carol jogging my memory and the more I thought about it, the more jittery I got. The idea of me trying to tell you folks, who know so much more about Standard Dwarfs than I do, how to judge SDBs. I just grow them because I love them, but to heck with all this judging stuff - that's for the birds, so I doubt if I will say anything you will agree with. Don't blame me—blame Lee.



You know I like to liken iris to people. As I look at you folks in the audience, I see some that grow too tall for the class, some too short, some a little bald on top, not quite as perfect standards as we'd like—some long-haired, doggy falls we call them, some whose foliage has grown too wide in the middle, some whose color is not as clear as it once was, with a few blotches here and there - striations or veins, I believe we call them. In fact, there are a great many of you who do not fit into any class, but we love you just the same, and we are all striving for that perfection in our lives that we are trying to produce in our irises. However, we all have to have standards to live by, so as we have the Bible to guide our lives, so we have a Judges Handbook to guide us in judging Iris. I grant you I don't agree with all it says, but let's review what it says about SDBs anyway.

So you want to become a judge? I suggest that before you even read the Judges Handbook, you go out to the garden and get acquainted with the irises. Go from plant to plant and look them over - each plant, from top to bottom - up one side and down the other - up close and farther away. Count the buds - note size - width - height - shape, of leaves as well as flowers, note proportion - is it a peanut sitting on a telephone pole or a cabbage head on a golf tee, buried in the foliage? Keep notes, how long does it bloom? - all at once or over a period of time? Is it all bunched up together or are the flowers well spaced. Does it have garden value? How many bloomstalks, does it increase well or bloom out, does it have personality or is it just the run-of-the-mill? Make it your close friend. Know everything you can find out about each of your irises - compare with each other and other people's irises. - then you can judge them. Are there better ones already named? Have you seen any others beside your own seedlings? Does it have a nice fitting name? They are so important. You really get to know an iris when you live with it, and see it come up in the spring - bloom - fade - increase - and how it performs through the winter.

Now you ask me, "How DO you judge an Iris?" Well, that's easy - it all depends on the weather. If it is hot, dry, and windy - in Kansas they will be rags and you just as well not judge them. But, if the weather is cool, cloudy and moist - as it has been this year, then they are stiff, starchy, colorful, and beautiful, as mine have been. Then you can judge them. But don't do as I do, just stand there and drool over them - reach down and jerk them out if they are no good. Too many are introduced now that shouldn't be because they are "my beautiful babies," and we haven't seen what is already introduced. I have a dead ringer for Oriental Baby, an IB, but I got it too late. Oriental Baby got here first.

One of the most important duties of a judge is to KNOW the specifications of the class of Iris he is judging and to KNOW the irises that belong in that class so he may be able to determine whether the iris judged is registered in the right class. Only then can he decide whether or not it is worthy of awards in that class, and the only way you can do that is to raise them yourself, or study them in other gardens. You won't get the knowledge you need from looking at a catalog or a check list.

Most of us learned first to judge tall bearded irises, and the general principles are the same, but judges should remember that a median iris is not merely a smaller tall bearded iris, any more than a tall bearded is an enlarged dwarf. They have a delicacy and personality all their own - just as each of us has.



They are the smallest of the medians, ranging from 10-14 inches in height. We like to think of them as having branched stems. Unbranched in this day are not considered the best; they should have 2-3 blooms, preferably three, and 3-4 inches wide, free blooming: leaves erect or nearly so, shorter than or equal to the height of the bloomstalk - flowers not buried in the foliage - and they should bloom between the miniature dwarfs and the intermediates but there is no set season for them to bloom. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they all did all these things?

1. PROPORTION - 20 points. First we look at the overall balance of the plant - the relation between its parts - flower to stalk to foliage to clump. Do they fit together? Is the flower above the foliage and not down in it? Often we find this true at the beginning of the season and they grow taller as the season proceeds. Also, the weather never being the same any two years makes a difference. How about the size of the flower? It should be in proportion. A 4-inch flower is too large to be on a 14-inch stalk, a 2-inch is too small. Stand back and look at it from a distance. Is it a satisfying proportion? It should be.

2. FLOWER - 50 points. COLOR gets 20 points, FORM - 20, and SUBSTANCE and TEXTURE - 10 points.

Now COLOR - we can't get around the fact that the first thing we see is color, so we must consider its garden value, its smoothness, its clarity, its pattern or novelty. Stand off a ways and look at its color. Do you like it? Then come closer and notice the contrasting spot or halo patterns and the unusual beards for which these small irises are noted. Give points when the contrasts are strong enough for garden effect. Haft marks or unpleasing patterns and colors should be penalized.

FORM gets 20 points. A flaring or horizontal form is more desirable in these little fellows, since it better outlines the iris form and presents more color surface to the eye when viewed from above. Here is where I take issue with the handbook. On some of these little fellows, open standards are better than domed because they give more surface to see when viewed from above. Not all of them, by any means, but there are some that are more attractive open than closed. Petals should be wide, if possible, a skinny appearance is OUT. The standards vary, of course, but the just domed, not overlapped, are considered best. Tall, pointed or narrow or flat standards, or those which fold outward at the midrib should be penalized.

Preferable are falls wide at the haft and rounded or oval form. Don't consider pinched, overlong, doggie or blocky falls. However, we must not overlook the shape of the falls and see only the ruffles and lace and thereby justify our personal preferences, we must see them as they are. In other words, see what you are looking at. Don't see things that aren't there just because you think it is a pretty iris, and don't fail to see things that are present because you don't want to. BE FAIR.

SUBSTANCE AND TEXTURE - 10 points. What IS substance? It is one of the hardest things to get. It is thickness, stiffness, crispness and toughness of the petals. Substance determines how long the flower will stay in good condition by withstanding heat, cold, wind, rain and age. Look at the plant with great care, examine the buds - the open blooms - are they freshly opened blooms or are they past their prime, and estimate the age of each flower. Careful observation and comparison will soon tell you the story. If the wind rips it or creases it, the substance is poor. If the sun melts it into a shapeless mass or if rain spots it badly, the substance is poor. Also strong substance sustains color for the normal life of the bloom. It doesn't fade or burn - these are important points.

TEXTURE is akin to substance, and is like leather, satin, silk, velvet or wax. These are terms that describe texture. Sometimes there is a rough or smooth texture which may appear finished or unfinished, crepe texture is considered poor substance.

3. FLORIFEROUSNESS - 10 points. How many stalks and how many buds is normal per clump? They vary with varieties. Length of bloom time is very important, also whether the flowers bloom one at a time and cover a long period of time, or whether they bloom all at once and it's over in a hurry. The norm for bloomstalks is three buds per stalk, or at least two, and stalks with only one bloom are frowned on nowadays and possibly should be penalized. An established clump should bloom from 10 to 15 days. Penalize for stalks with only one or two buds all blooming together. Blooms down in the foliage should be penalized too, but often it is only the first bloom and later blooms grow to a normal height. Just where is that branch fastened to the stalk? Far enough below to clear the first bloom, or do they bump into each other when in bloom?

4. FOLIAGE AND PLANT - 10 points. Foliage should be a good glaucous, blue-green coloring. Penalize for yellow color. The commonest fault is too coarse, overwide and overtall. Penalize also for sparseness, or for rank or untidy growth. Remember we have to look at that foliage most of the year and we want it to be pretty. Keep clumps small enough to be pretty!

5. DISTINCTIVENESS - 10 points. Most important of all to me. Plus values: poise, personality and charm in combination of coloring, form or pattern - ruffling, lace, velvet, beards or halos. Things that make the iris stand out like people. Here's where the judge must make certain he knows his varieties, also, he must not be partial to these frills and furbelows and miss the defects of the iris. I've seen beards and lace completely bowl people over and close their eyes to other faults. Some irises are just like people. They stand out in a crowd. Those are the ones we love most - but don't they all have charm for each of us? I have lived in the garden since April 10 and loved every minute of it.



Now, I'd like to say one more thing, and then we will go on to exhibition judging. PEOPLE versus JUDGING—A lady came into my garden this bloom season and had so much fun choosing the ones she wanted. Now this lady knows iris and all we have been talking about, but she picked out the irises she personally liked for her own garden. She cared not one whit about the substance, the height, size, foliage, number of blooms - PREFERRED open standards, saying they had so much more eye coverage. She saw only the bloom, its color, personality and charm—none she chose were introduceable. It all depends on who and what we are growing them for.

EXHIBITION JUDGING

There are two words that should be printed in big letters at the top of every show schedule and hung at the entrance of every show room where all can see. They are 'BE KIND. I have seen more feelings hurt at Iris shows than anywhere else on earth. Learn to button your lip when you go to a show. LOOK, but keep your thoughts to yourself. You didn't see the flowers when the judges did, and that makes all the difference in the world. Over and over I say to myself, when looking at a show, "That isn't the one I would have given a blue ribbon, but I wasn't here this morning when the judges saw it, so I don't know how it looked then.

Now from another angle, have you ever seen a new, inexperienced member come proudly bringing the best specimen she has from her garden, lovingly cared for, groomed the best she knew how and Oh so HAPPY to have something to enter in the show - her very first time - only to hear someone within earshot say, "Why in the world did she bring THOSE DOGS? I suppose she thinks she will win a prize." Don't let's be guilty of that. You can't have a show without specimen stalks, and they can't all be winners. So bring the best you have. Teach people - don't criticize.

A show should be a fun thing - even though it's very hard work, enjoy it. Who gets the ribbons is not nearly as important as the good fellowship displayed and enjoying old friends again and helping new friends to enjoy a wonderful hobby.

An iris show really shows up the judge. You make a mistake, either in lack of knowledge or being partial and you will be criticized severely. You don't fool the public. Your job is to pick out the most nearly perfect example in each class.

The first requirement of a judge is a thorough knowledge of the class he is judging, and true knowledge comes only from growing them. You must KNOW the specifications for the class. A standard dwarf iris can only be considered for an exhibition award when it conforms to its class requirements and is put IN the right class, so a judge MUST be familiar with many varieties.

Judging a specimen on a show bench should be against standards of perfection for each variety, and you must judge them with impartial consideration AS THEY ARE at the time you see them. I remember once when we were judging a show, we came upon a most beautiful blue - SKY BABY - but very large, larger than any other flower in the SDB division. It was perfect in every way, but we couldn't give it a blue ribbon because it was oversize. So, we must know whether a particular flower is true to its variety in color, form, and size, and we must not have a personal preference. So we must be conscious of proportion when we are judging.

In judging medians, indefinables, such as charm, personality and distinctiveness are considered most important and they are often the deciding point in difficult decisions. However, we must not see only the charm and ruffling and overlook faults.

KNOW the color of each flowers. Of course they will vary because of soils and climate, but it has been known that some add a bit of coloring to the water to intensify color. Also check carefully the FORM - there again, people are sneaky, pins and struts are often used to cover up imperfections and to lengthen stems. The substance should be crisp and firm at the time of judging - no thin crepiness. Number of open blooms help make decisions. Good grooming, cultural perfection and age of the bloom are also points to be considered.

In judging collections, irises from different classes must not be combined, SDB, IB, BB, but should be all standard dwarfs together, the colors should harmonize and be as nearly the same height as possible. In other words, consider the component specimens and the harmony of the display. This is important.

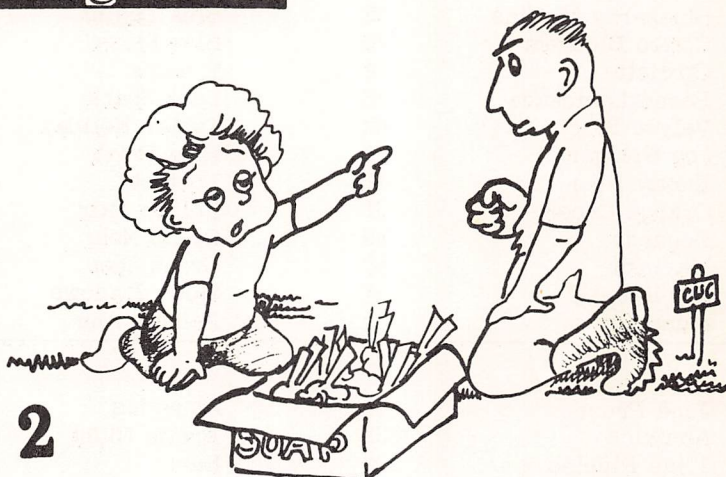
Let's digress from judging a moment to the person entering the specimens in the show, and consider grooming - pick stem as long as you can and be sure it is straight. You're not making an arrangement. No spent blooms - break them out and smooth the spathe back up over the stem. Blooms should be clean, no dust or debris. No tears in bloom, clean foliage if used, no brown tips. Groom it to perfection - as if it was the bride at a wedding. Then when you are at the show, look around at other specimens and compare them with yours and see what you left undone. You can learn a lot.

QUEEN OF THE SHOW

Oh me - here you are putting everything together I've said, and picking out the most perfect specimen in the show. Not only the latest introductions can qualify! Here we have to be real picky - check every little thing for flaws. However, if the weather man knows you are going to have a show he will see to it you don't have a perfect show, and of course, we must make allowances - but do the best you can. It is a good idea to have an extra set of judges to select the queen.

Now I've left out a lot of things, but you can read them in the handbook. We don't raise irises to judge them, we raise them because we love them and enjoy seeing them, so do just that. Forget the rules, and love and enjoy them to the utmost. The medians are here to stay, and if you are still one of those old "stuck in the groove" TB growers, you're missing the boat. I had a TB grower say to me this spring, "Mildred, I hate to admit it, but I do believe these little fellas are the coming thing!" So get on the bandwagon - raise some SDBs and join the crowd and have fun.

Planting Time



Twyla Almstead



ADDITIONAL NEW MEMBERS

We are happy also to welcome the following new members who have joined through the AIS:

Bartley, Mr M B, 2602 West Oklahoma, Enid, Okla 73701
 Cline, Mrs James H, Rt 2, Box 312, Burlington, Iowa 52601
 Ehrlich, Mrs Ben, 31 Hawthorne Dr, Monroe, Conn 06468
 Gibson, Mr Richard E, 5613 Tahama St, Sacramento, Calif 95841
 Graves, Mrs Mary A, PO Box 1073, Alexandria, Va 22313
 Hendershott, Mrs Arnold, 3555 Rogers Rd, Parma, Mich 42969
 Kirby, Mr and Mrs Donald E, 940 N Kingswood, Kaysville, Utah 84037
 McConnell, Mrs J B, PO Box 7215, Tulsa, Okla 74105
 Reid, Mrs Lorena M, 17225 McKenzie Hwy—Rt 2, Springfield, Ore 97447

Symposium 1971

BALLOTS RECORDED: single 44, family (6) 12, a total of 56. Varieties voted: SDB 162, IB 137, BB 125, MTB 76. Those that made the lists (50 or more points) and varieties that scored more than 20 points are:

SDB

| | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|----------------|----|---------------|----|
| 1 | Gingerbread Man | 206 | Angel Music | 25 | Puppet | 43 |
| 2 | Cherry Garden | 157 | Blue Canary | 32 | Rangerette | 43 |
| 3 | Blueberry Muffins | 95 | Blue Denim | 29 | Red Heart | 49 |
| 4 | Cotton Blossom | 76 | Blue Moss | 25 | Twice Blessed | 37 |
| 5 | Circlette | 74 | Brassie | 40 | Zing | 36 |
| 6 | Laced Lemonade | 73 | Dark Spark | 40 | | |
| 7 | Velvet Touch | 68 | Easter Holiday | 23 | | |
| 8 | Joy Bringer | 65 | Fine Print | 44 | | |
| 9 | Knotty Pine | 62 | Footnote | 40 | | |
| 10 | Orange Caper | 61 | Golden Fair | 27 | | |
| 11 | Regards | 59 | Grace Note | 30 | | |
| 12 | Marinka | 58 | Green Spot | 44 | | |
| 13 | Sky Baby | 57 | Moon Shadows | 26 | | |
| 14 | Shine Boy | 51 | Pamela Ann | 44 | | |

IB

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|-----|---------------|----|-----------------|----|
| 1 | June Prom | 174 | Aquarius | 28 | Gold Buttons | 21 |
| 2 | Annikins | 132 | Arctic Night | 29 | Happy Mood | 24 |
| 3 | Lime Ripples | 102 | Barbi | 41 | Indian Fire | 28 |
| 4 | Dilly Dilly | 93 | Bee Bop | 48 | Kiss Me Kate | 43 |
| 5 | Light Cavalry | 82 | Blue Asterisk | 27 | Le Sabre | 30 |
| 6 | Arabi Treasure | 81 | Brown Doll | 42 | Little Bit Blue | 46 |
| 7 | Lillipinkput | 80 | Celia Kay | 28 | Ohio Deb | 43 |
| 8 | Maroon Caper | 69 | Clique | 43 | Orange Riot | 38 |
| | Moonchild | 69 | Cloud Fluff | 40 | Oriental Baby | 36 |
| 10 | Sing Again | 65 | Con Brio | 24 | Pink Reverie | 21 |
| 11 | Arctic Fancy | 60 | Drummer Boy | 48 | Preamble | 30 |
| 12 | Pale Cloud | 58 | Early Edition | 39 | Rose Harmony | 24 |
| 13 | Azure Echo | 54 | Elfin Antique | 28 | Small World | 21 |
| 14 | Galaxy | 53 | Frosted Cream | 35 | Sugar | 39 |
| 15 | Cutie | 50 | Frosted Cups | 22 | Svelte | 27 |

BB

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|-----|-----------------|----|------------|----|
| 1 | Tulare | 178 | Amberita | 34 | Rain Pool | 24 |
| 2 | Lace Valentine | 164 | Bayadere | 46 | Starchild | 22 |
| 3 | Jungle Shadows | 139 | Brownie Scout | 29 | Timmie Too | 27 |
| 4 | Bride's Pearls | 138 | Brown Rings | 21 | Wizard | 21 |
| 5 | Frenchi | 119 | Carnival Glass | 45 | | |
| 6 | Crystal Bay | 88 | Cub Scout | 21 | | |
| 7 | Girl Guide | 78 | Ellen Q | 46 | | |
| 8 | Olive Cocktail | 77 | Junior Prom | 40 | | |
| 9 | Miss Ruffles | 76 | Little Gremlin | 30 | | |
| 10 | Little Lynn | 74 | Little Reb | 48 | | |
| 11 | Blue Miller | 73 | Little Sir Echo | 23 | | |
| 12 | Botany Bay | 72 | Mexicali | 25 | | |
| 13 | Pebbles | 62 | Native Daughter | 24 | | |
| 14 | Little Mark | 54 | Night Train | 22 | | |
| 15 | Boy Scout | 50 | Pink Darling | 23 | | |

MTB

| | | | | |
|----|------------------|-----|----------------|----|
| 1 | Topsy Turvy | 139 | Bit O'Afton | 31 |
| 2 | Dainty Dancer | 114 | Buenita | 44 |
| 3 | Pewee | 101 | Charlie Brown | 37 |
| 4 | Tom Tit | 91 | Dainty Cloud | 40 |
| 5 | Widget | 83 | Desert Quail | 42 |
| 6 | Brown Crown | 81 | Glint O'Bronze | 36 |
| 7 | Blue Trimmings | 72 | Honorable | 27 |
| 8 | Shrinking Violet | 72 | Kaleidoscope | 34 |
| 9 | Dainty Damsel | 69 | Nambe | 32 |
| 10 | Daystar | 63 | New Idea | 21 |
| 11 | Ice Fairy | 61 | Painted Rose | 32 |
| 12 | Dainty Dove | 55 | Parakeet | 37 |
| 13 | Mockingbird | 53 | Royal Thrush | 33 |



| | |
|---------|----|
| Tid Bit | 38 |
| Warbler | 31 |