

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

REGION

4

NEWS
CAST



VOLUME 15

APRIL, 1973

NO. 1

NEWSCAST EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief, Rena Crumpler

Associate Editor, Tom Ford

Mailing and Subscriptions, Blanche Rice

REPORTERS

Blue Ridge Chapter	Helen Rucker
Marydel Chapter	Paul Hoffmeister
Southern W. Va. Chapter	Mrs. S. M. Owens
Norfolk Chapter	Mickey Kirby
Western N. C. Chapter	Frances Brown
Eastern N. C. Chapter	Naomi O'Brien
C. & P. Chapter	Ellamay Hollis
Central W. Va. Chapter	Roberta McMullin
Greenbrier Chapter	Vacant
Francis Scott Key Chapter	Ann Dasch

NEWSCAST IS PUBLISHED TRI-ANNUALLY IN MARCH, AUGUST AND DECEMBER.

NEWSCAST IS FREE TO ALL MEMBERS OF REGION 4, A. I. S.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE TO NON-MEMBERS OF REGION 4—\$3.00 per year

Permission is granted to reprint any article appearing in Newscast unless otherwise specified, provided proper credit is given.

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page	\$25.00
One-half page	15.00
One quarter page	8.00
Commercial Directory	2.75

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, REGION 4, BOARD

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

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. William D. Kelley
653 Washington Street, East,
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
Phone 304-645-1570

ASST. R. V. P.

Dr. Anne L. Lee
3505 White Chapel Road
Norfolk, Virginia 23509
Phone 703-625-2644

IMMEDIATE PAST R. V. P.

Mr. Maynard E. Harp
605 Kingston Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
Phone 301-377-6691 or
301-357-8253

SECRETARY

Mrs. Wm. E. Barr
Valley Road
Stevenson, Maryland 21153
Phone 301-486-5214

TREASURER

Mr. B. J. Brown
Route 3, Box 327D
Charlotte, N. C. 28210
Phone 704-588-1788

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Col. John N. Trudell
566 Williamsburg Lane
Odenton, Maryland 21113

HISTORIAN AND LIBRARIAN

Mrs. Henry H. Purdy
107 Goldsboro St.
Easton, Maryland 21601

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF—NEWSCAST

Mrs. Rena M. Crumpler
2521 Wycliffe Ave., S. W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24014
Phone 703-344-2341

ASSOCIATE EDITOR—NEWSCAST

Mr. Thomas R. Ford
12627 Oxon Road,
Herndon, Va. 22070
Phone 703-471-1304

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. B. J. Brown
Rt. 3, Box 327D
Charlotte, N. C. 28210
Phone 704-588-1788

CONVENTIONS

Mr. Earl T. Browder
2517 Washington Ave.
St. Albans, West Virginia 25177
Phone 304-727-1552

JUDGES' TRAINING

Mr. Frederick G. Stephenson
5608 Merriman Road, S. W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24018
Phone 703-774-0202

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Roberta McMullin
2507 Broad Street
Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101
Phone 304-422-6125

ROBINS

Mrs. Judith McLeod
Rt. 7, Box 872
Asheville, N. C. 28803

AUCTIONS

Dr. Roy Epperson
1115 Delk Drive
High Point, N. C. 27262
Phone 919-883-9677

MEDIAN IRISES

Mrs. Rena W. Kizziar
2704 Tidewater Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23509
Phone Unlisted

REBLOOMING IRISES
Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg
903 Tyler Avenue
Radford, Virginia 24141
Phone 703-639-5593

EXHIBITIONS

Mrs. Frances D. Brown
Rt. 3 Box 327D
Charlotte, North Carolina 28210
Phone 704-588-1788

IRIS LANDSCAPING
Mrs. Retta E. Harp
605 Kingston Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21212
Phone 301-377-6691

TEST GARDEN
Mrs. Paul Hoffmeister
Box 462
Neavitt, Md. 21652

YOUTH
Mrs. Ann B. Dasch
36 Green Meadow Drive
Timonium, Maryland 21093
Phone 301-252-4662

IRIS PATHOLOGY
Mr. Thomas R. Ford
12627 Oxon Road,
Herndon, Va. 22070
Phone 703-471-1364

PHOTOGRAPHY
Dr. and Mrs. Frank H. G. Figge
4 Maryland Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
Phone 301-825-2154

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER CHAIRMAN
Mrs. A. W. Rice
2817 Avenham Ave., S. W.
Roanoke, Va. 24014
Phone 703-343-4360

MARYDEL CHAPTER CHAIRMAN
Mrs. Henry Purdy
107 Goldsboro Street
Easton, Maryland 21601

SOUTHERN W. VA. CHAPTER CHRMN.
Mrs. S. M. Owens
160 Riverview Drive
St. Albans, W. Va. 25177

NORFOLK, VA. CHAPTER CHAIRMAN
Dr. Anne L. Lee
3505 White Chapel Rd.
Norfolk, Va. 23509
Phone 703-625-2644

WESTERN N. C. CHAPTER CHAIRMAN
Mrs. Judith McLeod
Rt. 7, Box 872
Asheville, N.C. 28803
Phone 704-628-2597

EASTERN N. C. CHAPTER CHAIRMAN
Dr. Roy Epperson
1115 Delk Drive
High Point, N. C. 27262
Phone 919-883-9677

C. & P. CHAPTER CHAIRMAN
Dr. D. C. Nearpass
9526—50th Pl.
College Park, Md. 20740

CENTRAL W. VA. CHAPTER CHRMN.
Mrs. Roberta McMullin
2507 Broad Street
Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101
Phone 304-422-6125

GREENBRIER CHAPTER
Mr. W. D. Kelley, Representative
653 Washington St. East
Lewisburg, W. Va. 24901
Phone 304-645-1570

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAP. CHRMN
Mrs. Fred M. Miller
500 Winchester Rd.
Towson, Md. 21204

RICHMOND CHAPTER CHAIRMAN
Mr. Albert W. Thimsen
Rt. 5, Box 139A
Richmond, Virginia 23231
Phone 703-795-2291

AIS JUDGES

January 1, 1973



R E G I O N 4

WEST VIRGINIA

G RVP, Mr. Wm. D. Kelley*	653 Wash. St., E. Lewisburg, WV 24901
S Mr. Earl T. Browder*	2517 Wash. Ave., St. Albans, WV 25177
G Mrs. J. R. McCracken	RFD 2, Box 72, Walker, WV 26180
G Mrs. William J. McLaughlin	Box 331, Lewisburg, WV 24901
G Mrs. Roberta McMullin	2507 Broad Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101
G Mrs. John E. Van Horn	1526 Fenton Circle, Nitro, WV 25143

MARYLAND

G Mrs. Elton H. Bounds	Route 50, Mardella Springs, Md. 21837
G Mrs. Robert E. Dasch	36 Greenmeadow Dr., Timonium, Md. 21093
G Mrs. Frank H. J. Figge	4 Maryland Ave., Towson, Md. 21204
G Mr. Maynard E. Harp*	605 Kingston Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21212
G Mrs. Maynard E. Harp	605 Kingston Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21212
G Mr. Paul Hoffmeister*	Box 462, Neavitt, Md. 21652
G Mrs. Paul Hoffmeister (Jean M.)	Box 462, Neavitt, Md. 21652
G Mrs. Fred M. Miller	500 Worcester Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21204

NORTH CAROLINA

G Dr. Raymond L. Alexander	307 Lawson Rd., Washington, NC 27889
A Mrs. Alice Bouldin	Route 2, Box 302, Elon College, NC 27244
G Mr. B. J. Brown	Route 3, Box 327D, Charlotte, NC 28210
G Mrs. B. J. Brown	Route 3, Box 327D, Charlotte, NC 28210
G Mr. John A. Dughi	2508 Beechridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27608
G Mrs. John A. Dughi	2508 Beechridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27608
G Mr. E. Roy Epperson	1115 Delk Drive, High Point, NC 27262

G Mrs. Miles P. Farrar Box 263, Mt. Holly, NC 28120
G Mrs. Craven B. Helms Route 9, Box 381, Monroe, NC 28110
G Mrs. Elmer J. Nifong Rt. 3, Box 370, Kernersville, NC 27284
H Mrs. C. C. O'Brien 330 Walser Road, Greensboro, NC 27406
G Mrs. D. W. Parham 3113 Triangle Lake Rd., High Point, NC 27260
A Mrs. A. H. Price Route 1, Summerfield, NC 27406
S Dr. Joseph B. Parker, Jr. 1912 Wilshire Dr., Durham, NC 27707
G Mr. Frank Sherrill* 410 Woodlawn Street, Davidson, NC 28036
A Mrs. D. L. Trogden, Sr. Route 1, Scalesville Road
Summerfield, NC 27358
A Mrs. D. L. Trogden, Jr. Route 1, Scalesville Road
Summerfield, NC 27358
G Mrs. Giles P. Wetherill, RFD 7, Box 403, Franklin, NC 28734
G Mr. H. K. Witherspoon 2630 Fairview Road, Raleigh, NC 27608

VIRGINIA

G Mr. Weldon W. Ballard 1304 Canal Drive, Chesapeake, Va. 23323
S Mrs. F. Allen Brown 4326 Grandin Rd. Ext., Roanoke, Va. 24018
A Mr. Richard M. Connally 12627 Oxon Road, Herndon, Va. 22070
G Mrs. Charles M. Cox 6324 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, Va. 22041
G Mrs. B. E. Crumpler (Rena M.)* 2521 Wycliffe Ave., SW,
Roanoke, Va. 24014
G Mr. Thomas R. Ford 12627 Oxon Road, Herndon, Va. 22070
S Mrs. Guy R. Kirby 212 Forrest Avenue, Norfolk, Va. 23505
G Dr. Anne L. Lee 3505 White Chapel Road, Norfolk, Va. 23509
G Mrs. John W. McCoy 3540 Windsor Road, SW, Roanoke, Va. 24018
S Mrs. Robert L. Munn 4216 Bounty Road, Virginia Beach, Va. 23455
G Mrs. Hunt Nenon Court Place, Chatham, Va. 24531
G Mrs. Nelson O. Price 107 Wharton, SE, Blacksburg, Va. 24060
G Mrs. A. W. Rice 2817 Avenham Ave., SW, Roanoke, Va. 24014
S Mrs. Charles F. Roberts 226 Forrest Ave., Norfolk, Va. 23505
G Mr. F. G. Stephenson 5608 Merriman Rd., SW, Roanoke, Va. 24018
G Mrs. Frederick G. Ward 544 Caren Dr., Virginia Beach, Va. 23452
S Dr. Lloyd Zuzbrigg* 903 Tyler Avenue, Radford, Va. 24141

WASHINGTON D. C.

(no entries)

*Present or Former Regional Vice President

EDITOR'S PAGE

First, I want to thank you for your many kind words and deeds throughout Gene's illness and since his death. There is little to sustain us at such times except the love and concern of good friends. I can never tell you how much you have helped me to resume some sort of normal life—and life does go on. From experience, I know that it is not as difficult after a time.

We are having a hard winter for irises with much less snow than usual and more alternate freezing and thawing. This always makes our irises look sad whether or not it does any real damage. The other day, I scratched away enough of the mulch to take a look at a few of them and they seem to be doing fine so far. I hope the same is true in the other gardens of our region. I am anxiously awaiting a few mild days so I can start spraying.

Am looking forward with great anticipation to the first year bloom of our guests for the National Convention in '74. We hope many of you will visit the Blue Ridge chapter gardens this year for a preview of things to come. This is a rare opportunity for you judges to view these plants for two years in a row which will help you in your voting. It would also be a good chance for Apprentice judges to get additional garden instruction since the owners of many of the designated tour gardens are A.I.S. judges.

Speaking of judges, may I preach for a moment on the obligation our judges owe our Region 4 hybridizers? We are not meeting this obligation as judges unless we take upon ourselves the responsibility for visiting the gardens of our hybridizers several times during bloom season and becoming actively interested in their work by carefully noting anything which has promise and watching its performance thru two or more years. This is a tremendous encouragement to our hybridizers and a particularly important phase of our work as judges. End of sermon.

From Dr. Anne Lee an item from the A.M.A. Journal. Dr. Harry Arnold, a dermatologist, says that $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. of meat tenderizer in 2 teaspoons of water is an excellent antidote for insect stings. The enzyme papain in the tenderizer breaks down the venom and relieves the pain almost immediately. Anne does not guarantee it but thinks it might be worth trying.

Will look forward to your visits particularly between May 13 and 20 which covers the '74 convention dates. Remember MARYLAND for the Regional meeting and PHILADELPHIA for the national convention.

RENA

RVP'S MESSAGE

I find it difficult, at this time, to formulate thoughts regarding the Iris Society, and even more so to place these thoughts into words. My dear wife, Florence, is now in the University of Virginia hospital at Charlottesville. This is the fifth confinement in the past year, three of which were for surgery. And that is not all, for approximately sixty days after her discharge from the hospital, she will have to return again for the fourth and, hopefully, the last operation. In the next surgery, the doctors will put everything back in order, and then, she will be "good as new." Her problem has been diverticulitis, which has grown progressively worse over the years and finally became critical after perforations appeared. The "good" part of the picture is that there was no malignancy, and she will make a full recovery.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article on the financial picture in the Region. On numerous occasions I have spoken to you about the downward trend of income. Apparently very few members have concerned themselves as to how the activities of the region are financed. Please read this article and be prepared to discuss this matter at your next chapter meeting.

As you read this issue of Newscast, we will be in the beginning of the Iris season. In some areas the Medians will be in bloom. Throughout the region it is only a matter of weeks until all will be at peak bloom. Hope yours is the best ever.

At this same time, Region 4 will be moving into two of the most important years of its existence. I speak particularly of the Regional meeting at Tyson's Corner, Virginia, on May 25th and 26th, with the C & P Chapter as our host. I hope and trust that there will be a good attendance at this convention. The following week the National Convention will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and it is hoped that many of our Region 4 members will accept this opportunity to attend an American Iris Society Convention and observe the tremendous cost and effort that has been expended for your pleasure and enlightenment.

Next year Region 4 will be host for the 1974 A. I. S. National Convention. The Blue Ridge Chapter has accepted the primary responsibility for the staging of this convention in Roanoke, Virginia. The members of the chapter have done a remarkable job in preparation for this meeting and they will, no doubt, pursue their work to a successful conclusion. While this chapter

is assuming most of the responsibility and performing practically all of the work to date, it is still the Region's reputation that is at stake, and it is the duty of all chapters and their membership to actively support this project. Your suggestions and offers of assistance will be most welcome. Cooperative efforts in this tremendous undertaking will undoubtedly serve to strengthen our Society and to keep Region 4 as one of the best in the nation.

RVP BILL

**REGION 4, 1973 ANNUAL MEETING
hosted by
CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC CHAPTER**

Headquarters: Holiday Inn, Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 1960 Chain Bridge Road (Va. 123), at the intersection with Va. 7, the Leesburg Pike, and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the Washington Beltway, Interstate 495, Exit 11.

Friday, May 25th:

Registration 10 A.M.—1 P.M.

Judging Session 1—3 P.M.

Board Meeting 3—5 P.M.

Garden visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Cox, 6324 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, Virginia, followed by a get-together, picnic, and auction of the Region's Special Group of Irises.

Saturday, May 25th:

8 A.M.—Bus Tour, leaving the Holiday Inn and visiting the gardens of Joe Dillon, Purcellville, the Crossmans, Hamilton, and Mrs. Anna Walrad, Warrenton.

7 P.M.—Annual Regional Banquet at the Holiday Inn. Mrs. Bee Warburton, Speaker, will present a "Parents and Children" iris show.

Further details will be mailed to each Region 4 member.

D. C. NEARPASS, Chairman

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC CHAPTER IRIS GARDENS D. C. Nearpass

GARDEN VISITING AND PICNIC, FRIDAY: On Friday evening May 25th, the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Cox, Falls Church, Va. will be open for visiting and viewing. The Cox garden features a number of iris beds, and contains irises for the Regional Auction. We hope that all the varieties will be in bloom.

A picnic and get together will be held in the evening. The auction of the Regional Irises will be held after the picnic.

SATURDAY BUS TOUR GARDENS:

The Joe Dillons of Purcellville, Va. live in a beautiful century-old field-stone house, surrounded by American boxwood and by trees just loaded with bird houses. Among all the trees are at least 50 wren houses. The iris garden is up the hill where it gets full sunshine and cooling breezes sweeping down from the Blue Ridge not far away. A visit to this garden on a cold day in February showed little in the garden but name tags and some greenery of iris fans peeping up through a heavy sawdust mulch. Inside, in front of the fire, we saw pictures of past iris glories and talked of things to come.

The modern iris collection at the Dillons includes a goodly number of recent introductions purchased by the C & P Chapter, to be grown on for the Chapter auctions.

* * * *

The George Crossmans of Hamilton, like the other gardeners on tour, live in the rolling hills of the Virginia Piedmont. Birds flock to this garden, too, and come every day to the feeding stations including one next to the dining room window. At one end of the house is a special bed of irises featuring the seedlings of the Crossmans, the Burgers of Frederick and Charlie Nearpass, all hybridizers in the C & P Chapter.

Out in the garden another bed features the introductions of Clarence Blocher and Nate Rudolph, old friends of the Crossmans when they lived in Chicagoland. The bloom seasons will

not all be right for the tour, but there are beds containing species irises, dwarfs, siberians and so on. It will be just as well that the daylilies will not be blooming, since the collection of tetraploids might draw eyes and cameras away from the irises.

We must be sure to look at the iris seedling patch. Some very good ones have been produced in this garden, including Lady of Loudoun, May Romance and Loudoun Lassie.

* * * *

The garden of Mrs. Anna Walrad, south of Warrenton, Va. is called Edgewood. It has all been cut, hacked and bulldozed out of the woods in just two years. Over 500 iris varieties, including seventeen 1973 introductions, of which twelve come from Gordon Plough, are to be found here. The C & P Chapter has a fine collection of recent irises at this garden, for garden viewing and to be grown on for the coming auctions.

It is in the Walrad garden that the Region 4 Test Garden Iris Planting will be found. All the plants are grown under number, but it may not be amiss to mention that, except for D. C., the entire region is represented, with 3 seedlings from West Virginia, 7 from North Carolina, 14 from Maryland and 30 from Virginia. Also 14 seedlings from outside the region are in the Test Garden. Mrs. Walrad mentioned that many beautiful test garden seedlings bloomed in 1972.

GARDENS NOT ON TOUR, BUT WORTH VISITING:

It was not possible to include the garden of Gene and Gerry Burger in a one-day iris tour, but all irisarians are urged to visit their backyard garden. The Burgers address is Frederick, but the home and garden is to the northwest of that city, in the village of Yellow Springs. These young hybridizers have a backyard full of recent and select named varieties, and some beautiful seedlings coming along. A number of their seedlings have won HC, and a few have been introduced, with more fine ones to come.

For those of you who may have time to visit other iris gardens in the C & P Area, before or after the Regional Meet, we hope to prepare maps and directions to locate those gardens that will be open and are of special interest.

SPRING JUDGES' TRAINING CLASS

F. G. Stephenson

Since many attending the Regional Meeting plan to go on to Philadelphia for the National Convention, it was decided to hold only one Judges' Training Class this year. In an effort to reduce expenses for those attending, this class will start at 1:00 P.M. eliminating the need, for many, to spend an extra night.

The Class will deal with the judging of Median Irises and will be geared to the needs of the beginner as well as the more advanced student.

We are most fortunate in having Bee Warburton of Westboro, Mass. as our guest instructor. This is in keeping with our policy of having the very best available people to help us. Bee is a most enjoyable person to know and most certainly is one of the best informed median enthusiasts with whom you'll ever come in contact. To know Bee is to love her and be thoroughly charmed by her love for all irises, but most especially the medians. Surely you'll want to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

The Class will be a two-hour class and a fee of \$1.00 per person will be charged to help defray expenses. Watch for Registration Forms and more details in your Convention mailing which will come along a bit later.

OUR EXCITING REGION 4 AUCTION IRISES

Rena Crumpler, Acquisitions Chairman

Our social get together on Friday night, May 25 before the Regional meeting will include an auction of the wonderful varieties purchased last year for that purpose. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cox at Falls Church, Virginia are growing them and we are hoping at least some of them will be in bloom when we visit the Coxs' Friday afternoon. We will also have slides to show you. Meanwhile, you will have plenty of time to read up on them.

Here follows a brief description of what we have to offer:

LATE REPORT, Steve Varner, '73. TB, 36", ML. Standards, light creamy yellow. Falls, light yellow with cream over-

lay; light orange beard; ruffled.. Monticello x Branch 59-22
(white seedling x Lavendula.)

DIALOGUE, Joe Ghio, '73. TB, 34", Standards light blue.
Falls dark blue violet, blue beard. From a line involving Frosted
Starlight, Spanish Peaks, Black Satin, Cahokia, Perre Menard,
Black Forest, Chivalry, Penthouse, Mahalo and Diplomacy.

VIRGINIA SQUIRE, Larry Gaulter, '73. TB, 36", M.
Marine Blue or deep blue purple self, blue purple beard from
Bristol Gem x Style Master. A real honey and what a name for
Region 4 iris fanciers!

TOUR de FORCE, Chet Tompkins, '73. Chet has moved
recently and we tried to call him before going to press but no
luck. However, when we talked with him last year he was very
high on this one and I am sure it is fine.

CRYSTAL LACE, Gordon Plough, '73. TB, 36". EML.
Standards near white with faint blue mauve tint to all petals,
lightly laced. Falls, same, heavily laced. Beard, carrot red deep
in heart, gradually lightening to white. Pink Dresden x Sweet
One.

BLUE LUSTER, Opal Brown, '73. Medium dark blue with
bright blue beard. We do not have a full description at this time.
However, many of you are familiar with Opal's introductions and
you know they are second to none.

PROPHECY, Joe Ghio '72. TB, 36", EML. Standards light
blue. Falls light blue with deeper blue violet blot, blue beard.

CINDY ELLEN, Opal Brown '72. TB, 40", EM. Standards
mid-section pale yellow, outer half inch near white, Falls white,
hafts brushed yellow, fine laced edge of yellow. Beard Orange.

WEDDING VOW, Joe Ghio '72. TB, 37", E. White self,
white beard.

CLAIRVOYANCE, Joe Ghio '72. TB, 34", M. Standards
buff apricot. Falls apricot base, lavender blot, raspberry shoul-
ders, burnt tangerine beard on blue base.

ORACLE, Joe Ghio '72. BB, 26", ML. Standards light blue.
Falls light blue with deep blue blot, pale yellow beard.

In addition to these irises there will be a few choice varieties
donated by our members. Come early — stay late — collect some
fine irises — and let your purse string hang loose! YOUR
REGION NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

REGION 4
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Chapter	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	Average
Blue Ridge	\$300.00	\$ 200.00	250.00	\$ —	\$ 360.00	\$ —	\$185.00
Chesapeake & Potomac	—	—	100.00	273.00	195.00	156.00	120.67
Francis Scott Key	—	145.00	170.00	174.00	186.00	153.00	138.00
Greenbrier	—	248.60	75.00	—	103.40	—	71.17
Marydel	38.18	20.00	70.90	57.00	72.00	63.00	53.52
Norfolk	150.00	80.00	—	90.00	50.00	100.00	78.33
Eastern N. C.)		—)		94.05	—	125.00	
(- - -	118.50	(150.00				91.25
Western N. C.)		—		60.00	—	—	
Richmond	—	—	49.80	—	—	—	8.30
Central West Va.	—	—	—	—	—	—	.00
Southern West Va.	125.00	315.00	270.00	165.00	114.00	—	164.83
	\$731.68	\$1,008.60	\$1,135.71	\$913.05	\$1,080.40	\$579.00	
Regional Iris Auctions							
Net Proceeds					67.38	215.79	
Totals	\$731.68	\$1,008.60	\$1,135.71	\$913.05	\$1,147.78	\$794.79	

REGION 4 FINANCES

Bill Kelley

The financial situation in Region 4 continues on a downward trend and is now reaching a critical stage. Accompanying this article is a tabulation showing the amounts transferred to the Region by each of the chapters over the past six years. The dollar amounts are not a fair method of comparison, as the chapter membership varies greatly. The number of members in your chapter divided into the average amount will give a good indication of the per member support. Evaluate your position with regard to those above you, rather than those below. Even this is a fallacy for there is not a single chapter that has done as well as they might have.

In the formative years of Region 4, one chapter in North Carolina held an annual Iris Auction and donated the entire proceeds to the Region. As the Region developed, other chapters were asked to hold auctions for this same purpose. Later it was recognized that the chapters should retain some funds for their local needs and your Regional Executive Committee directed that the auction proceeds be distributed 75% to the Region with 25% to remain with the chapter. This worked quite satisfactorily, since some of the chapters were conducting very good auctions and making substantial contributions to the Region. Unfortunately, others were making little or no contribution and there were complaints about this inequity. Your Executive Committee then resolved that each chapter should contribute \$3.00 per member to the Regional Treasury. This has been a failure because there is no way of enforcing such a levy. While some chapters increased their contributions under this system, there were others that reduced their contributions to the \$3.00 per member figure. Also, traditionally the various chapters have been permitted to forego any payments to the Region in the year in which they act as host for the Regional meeting and it appears that this is not always made up in subsequent years.

As your RVP, I do not want to preside over the financial funeral of Region 4 nor do I want to leave this office with an empty treasury. Therefore, I ask each chairman to discuss this matter at the next chapter meeting. If you have inadvertently failed to make a contribution, please do so immediately. If you have funds in your local treasury in excess of your current needs, please consider a further contribution to the Region, and above all, try to recognize that the chapters are not separate entities

with a purpose of building individual "Ivory Towers", but rather that you are organized at least partially for the purpose of effectively supporting your Region, so it may, in turn, effectively support the National Society.

At the spring meeting of the Executive Board, I shall ask for a resolution allocating 75% of auction proceeds to the Regional Treasury, or \$3.00 per member contribution, which ever be greater. I shall also suggest that members in chapters that are not currently active, be solicited individually for a \$3.00 contribution. These funds are needed primarily for the Newscast. We have the best publication of any of the 24 Regions in A. I. S. and we want to keep it that way. The Newscast is our means of communication and gives life to the organization. The reason it is not better is because you have not contributed sufficiently—money or articles or both.

OUR REGIONAL TEST GARDEN— AS GOOD AS ITS VISITORS!

It's that time of year again! We all hope that old man Winter has been kind to the Queen of the Garden, the genus Iris.

May 26th is the big day of our Regional Convention and the first look, for most of us, at our Regional Test Garden for 1973. And what a treat that will be! Our test garden director, Mrs. Walrad, reports that the guests are doing well and promises many blooms. And we ought to see an excellent display for there are 53 clumps of guests in well laid out and groomed beds. Most of these are two year clumps, but a few irises were lost when "Agnes" spent her fury on our gardens and were replaced in '72. These seedlings represent ten of our leading hybridizers. It is very important when you visit the test garden to inspect and judge carefully each of these seedlings. The guest display bed is the first rung on the ladder to fame and recognition for our Region 4 hybridizers. All members are requested to vote for the best seedling of a Region 4 hybridizer growing in the test garden so that the Adelaide Award can be given to the iris with the most votes. What an honor and not to be given lightly! May I also remind the accredited judges that their responsibility is to select the seedlings worthy of the RTG award? That's what the Test

Garden is all about. Don't forget that you judges are asked to vote for the best iris seen on the tour, either by a regional or national hybridizer for the coveted O'Brien award.

All the seedlings in Mrs. Walrad's beds are under code number and we must respect their anonymity. PLEASE, please, if you recognize a bloom as John Doe's keep the information to yourself. It is a courtesy and unfair to the other hybridizers to draw attention to a seedling which is under code number and disclose the originator. Competition and equal opportunity is the American Way so let the iris win on its own merit.

In 1974, Region 4 hosts the National Iris Convention and there will be no test garden as such. But mark out your seedlings this spring and request from your Test Garden chairman your entry blanks for the 1975-1976 test gardens. Each Hybridizer is permitted to enter five seedlings and may send one to three rhizomes of each seedling so get out those tweezers and let's see many outstanding new irises!

JEAN M. HOFFMEISTER
Test Garden Chairman

The Legend of the Iris

Thomas, beloved apostle of Jesus, was grief stricken by the crucifixion of his Master. And as much as he wanted to believe in a resurrection, his mind simply could not grasp such a miracle.

Three days after the Master's death, Thomas was walking a familiar path to Galilee when he noticed a lovely flower growing by the wayside. Only weeks before, the plant had been withered and brown — dead to all appearances. "It has been reborn," thought Thomas. "Could this be an example of resurrection as our Lord explained it to us?"

His heart bursting with new hope, Thomas hurried to the place where the apostles were gathering. And there, he found his Lord, risen from the dead as He had promised.

Thomas never forgot the lesson he learned from the iris. Even today, this lovely flower is a symbol to Christian hearts everywhere of new hope and new life.

Submitted by Elmira Purdy.

THE TRULY RED IRIS

Dave Niswonger

There is no question in my mind as to whether we will ever have a TRULY RED iris. I know we will! The question is when will it appear. It's very possible that it may show up in the beardless irises first. Some of the Japanese, Louisiana, and others have a redder appearance than in the bearded group. But, there's reason to believe that the possibility exists in the tall bearded and even the dwarfs.

It's my belief that every hybridizer should make a few crosses for a true red because the more persons we have working on the matter, the sooner we will have our red iris. No one knows just what combination is going to give the desired result but the more people we have working on it the more approaches will be utilized, which will speed up knowledge in this field. The thing that disturbs me is the fact that someone may get the break and NOT RECOGNIZE IT ! !

Dr. Peter Werckmeister in his article in the A. I. S. Bulletin No. 194 of July 1969 entitled "Red Irises and Cyanidin" points out that with a slight change of the Anthocyanin pigment, delphinidin, by the loss of a hydroxyl group from its molecule you have cyanidin and then another loss of a hydroxyl group you have pelargonidin which is the red pigment we see in geraniums. He further points out that mutations usually occur towards simpler molecules so mother nature is with us for a mutation to red. Conversely, it would be much more difficult to add hydroxyl groups to pelargonidin to get a blue geranium!

You can see my concern when you recall that when most breaks occur, as with the pink iris, the color isn't very clear and there's usually other pigment mixed with it and it may not be recognized. For example, if a person got the first mutation to cyanidin, it may be difficult to recognize mixed with brown. The only way this could be determined for sure would be to have the petal examined chemically. So, when a bluish purple haze shows up unexpectedly we should be highly suspicious of a possible mutation and take it to a botanist for examination. It may also be possible that you could lose two hydroxyl groups at one time and go immediately to pelargonidin but again, it probably would be mixed with other pigment; however, the glimpse of scarlet should cause us to seek out a botanist or if this is not possible,

do some inbreeding with the seedling showing this in an attempt to bring it out.

It was my pleasure to serve on a Hybridizing panel at the fall meeting of Region 18 in 1970 with Dr. Norlan C. Henderson, Professor of Botany at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Dr. Henderson is a past RVP and a member of the Greater Kansas City Iris Society. The American Horticultural Society recently published an outstanding article written by Dr. Henderson entitled "Bearded Iris Flower Colors" (Vol. 51 No. 3, Fall 1972, American Horticulturist) which everyone should read who has the slightest interest in pigments of irises.

When serving on the panel with Dr. Henderson, he pointed out that the chance of getting a mutation such as I have described would be 1 to 15,000,000. Now, that's a lot of seedlings to grow but if you consider that we have over 200 active hybridizers of irises, you can soon calculate how long it would take to accomplish this. If each one planted 100 seedlings it would take 750 yrs. at the most. We have probably used up 50 yrs. of this time and it could happen somewhere in between—maybe the first 2,000,000 which would be in the next 50 years. The frightening aspect of it is that we have it then if we will only be able to recognize it! Dr. Werckmeister predicts they will be "ugly ducklings".

Dr. Henderson reminded us that a single generation or single cross is not the same as a mutation and it doesn't happen very often. He stated that they probably occur about once in every 50,000 replications of the DNA molecule and then the resulting plant must be fertile to be of any value in a breeding program. He estimated that it has probably happened about six times since we've started hybridizing irises; yet, every single variable controlled by genes has been the result of a mutation regardless of when it occurred and the next one may be it !!

In the panel discussion, Dr. Henderson made an astonishing statement. He said, "Why worry about getting the red pigment, when you already have it. Not pelargonidin but malvidin, another red pigment, which is found in FRANK ADAMS (Greig Lapham '37)."

Let me pause here to say that as I understand it, we have about four red pigments that show up in nature. We have Lycopene a caratene which is the color of red tomatoes. Malvidin is the red in the berries you see on yews. Pelargonidin is the red

in geraniums and an xanthophyll-Rhodozanthin is a red not found in irises, as yet . . . At this point, we know we have delphinidin and malvidin in irises. Malvidin has been found in four species of beardless irises such as 1. fulva Johawne. Wynne found malvidin in tall bearded irises in 1966, in FRANK ADAMS, as I mentioned. It's interesting that malvidin and delphinidin usually show up together and Dr. Henderson would like to segregate the malvidin or find an inhibitor to suppress delphinidin as the easier way to get the red iris. Of course, there could be other pigments such as the flavones which would probably muddy the color when it first shows up. But, this is one approach that should be used.

We also have lycopene which is red in irises but one to three other carotenes (and maybe flavones, inhibitors, etc.) show up with it which makes it appear as "pink." Some hybridizers have used the "pink" approach to breeding for the true red. This has been my approach which I will discuss later.

In the October issue of 1968 (No. 191) of the American Iris Society, Art Nelson went all out to get as many articles as possible on the red iris. Eight writers review from every angle the development of the red iris to date. Nearly every article mentioned some of the irises developed by Greig Lapham. Probably no one has exceeded the concentration and effort expended by Mr. Lapham on the creation of a truly red iris. It's interesting to note that in his iris FRANK ADAMS he got malvidin and probably didn't know it. To quote from Earl Browder's article "Greig Lapham and Red Irises", Mr. Lapham started in 1923 collecting all the information he could about red irises and planned an approach. In 1930 he got BELLE PORTER from Troost X Seminole. From Belle Porter he got JERRY in 1933 when he crossed it with Bruno. Then in 1937 he registered FRANK ADAMS from his cross of Rameses X Jerry. In 1934 he registered RUBEN which came from King Tut X Jerry. It was from RUBEN that he was sure the truly red iris would appear and he bloomed nearly 5000 seedlings to get it. One wonders what would have happened if he would have done the same with FRANK ADAMS and it's quite possible that he did utilize Frank Adams in this program, I don't know about that. But, as Mr. Browder points out, "He did not fail". The challenge is to segregate the malvidin.

To follow this approach, one would want to grow over 100 seedlings from Frank Adams X Jerry and another 100 from Frank Adams X Rameses to see if the redder tendency favors either direction and then chemically examine the reddest ones from both

crosses to see if malvidin is still there. Then, when it is found, cross with others showing malvidin which may be "sibbing", if found in only one of the crosses, or crossing the best ones from both lines if found in both and sibbing in each of the crosses and continue this to refine the color. Or, outcrossing if an inhibitor is found for delphinidin and sib the best of this cross.

I'll have to admit that I'm not scientifically inclined enough to use FRANK ADAMS. I'm too impatient knowing that it will take several generations to produce the quality that we expect in today's introductions. So, my hat is off to Norlan Henderson, Carl Wyatt and others I do not know who may be using this approach.

What little I have done along the breeding for reds has been to work from the lycopene angle or the use of "pink". By doing this, I know that I will have some interesting seedlings show up along the way that will warrant introduction and if I never get a true red, I won't be entirely disappointed. There, I have spilled the beans.

Around 1962, I crossed Bang X Pretty Carol. These seedlings were mixed up colors but I selected the darkest one and crossed with ORANGE CHARIOT. I knew that Orange Chariot was out of Chinese Coral X Prairie Blaze and that Chinese Coral was out of (Mary Randall X Lapham Sdlg. G-20) X Fleeta. I didn't know whether the Lapham sdlg. was out of his red line or not but felt it was probably tied in closely somewhere along the way and I wanted to get it into my line along with Fay's pinks. The seedlings out of Orange Chariot were dirty browns and yellows but one of them was a brilliant orange with a pink glow and very clean at the hafts. I numbered this one 82-69. I haven't been able to get seed from this one but the pollen is good and I've used it in several directions among which has been WARLORD and my Raspberry Ripples line. None of these has bloomed as yet but the best ones will be intercrossed with the hope of finding the right combination.

By using the "pink" approach, a red might appear in at least two ways: (1) Segregate the lycopene so there are no other carotenes appearing with it. This would be recessive and would require considerable inbreeding. (2) Get the right combination of pigments and inhibitors, so that the mixture appears to be red.

In 1964, I started another line crossing Eva Smith's Sdlg. 61-535 out of Crinkled Sunset X Fabiola (which had a different type of red appearance) with an orange seedling of mine and then

crossing the best seedling of this group to my Bang X Pretty Carol sdlg. I got some nice chartreuse seedlings out of this line but it seemed that I couldn't get back to orange or red—the green color was very dominant so I dropped this approach. I mention this as an example of what one must do to work out a line. Then as I mentioned, you may run into an infertility factor that can limit your approach.

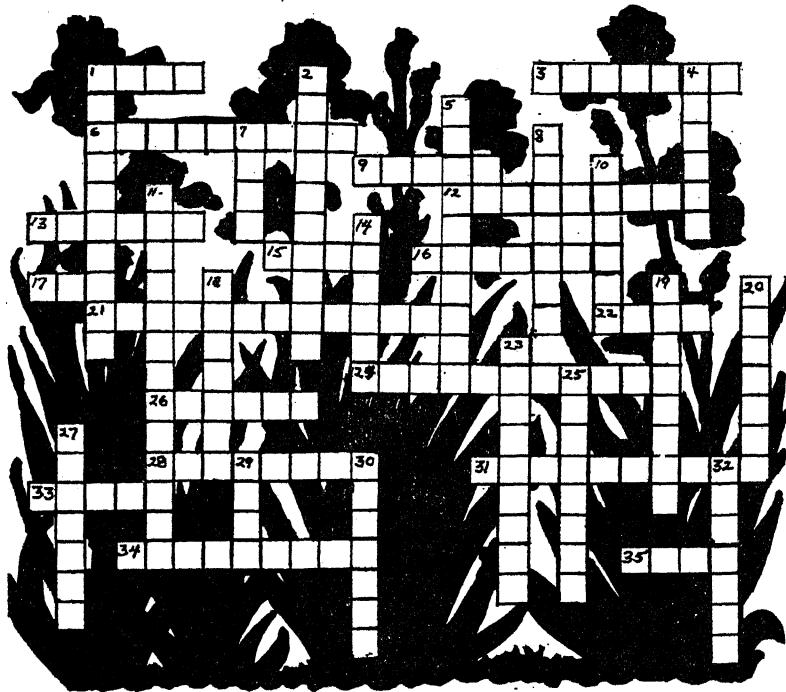
Despite all of the problems I may have brought up, I still believe that a truly red iris is possible and I have the feeling that someone is going to come up with it in my lifetime. You can see that this is a great opportunity for cooperative effort and the more that is done and the more that is shared can hasten the time when we will have the truly red iris. Let us all be alert for possible mutations and check them out so that no corridor will be lost in reaching the goal.

I'm looking forward to seeing the truly red iris—Are you?

NOTE: We are much indebted to Dave for submitting this article for NEWSCAST. Since his appearance at our 1972 Regional meeting as speaker and instructor, he has become a popular favorite with our Region 4 members. Ed.

John W. McCoy

We extend heartfelt sympathy to Clytie McCoy and her son John (Buddy) on the passing of their husband and father John W. McCoy on February 3, 1973. The hospitable McCoy home has been the scene of the Blue Ridge Chapter auction each year and John has always been an affable host for the picnic lunch which precedes it. He will be greatly missed by our members.



BLOOMING WINNERS FOR 1972

by Ann Dasch

Before we look at this season's great irises, look back at last year's winners on pages 42 to 46 in last July's AIS Bulletin. Some of those that garnered awards from the Judges grow in the garden below. How does your garden grow?

ACROSS

1. Mc_____'s namesake Siberian won an Honorable Mention
3. Ben Hager's SDB was second for the Cook-Douglas Medal
6. This Morn won 26 votes for TB Honorable Mention
8. A spuria runnerup for the Morgan Award, high style
12. First listed TB Award of Merit, in perfect order
13. Plough's swingin' IB runnerup for the Sass Medal

15. This fascinating TB plicata gal won 54 H.M. votes
16. An Award of Merit (BB) runnerup, former RVP's first name
17. A Freudian Siberian that won the Morgan Award
21. Keith Keppel's big Dykes victor
22. Wild _____ Garland or Fantasy, Californicae winners
24. Plough's golden touch won 25 H.M. (TB) votes
26. Hamblen's TB Award of Merit winner, "gotcha"
28. This tiny plicata almost won the Caparne Award
31. A celebration satellite, TB that won 26 votes for H.M.
33. Third for the Cook-Lapham Bowl, a special creed
34. Runner-up for the Debaillon Award, an outstanding Southerner
35. An Award of Merit (SDB) runnerup, Jones says it's Blue

DOWN

1. Wearing a white coat, it won the Rees Cup
2. Rudolph's Award of Merit TB sounds light red and shaggy
4. Dusky or Temple, either performer was a winner
5. This gleaming solar Caparne winner was presented by Sindt
7. An Orange IB Award of Merit winner, really rowdy
8. Buttrick's silver competition almost won the Dykes
10. In Cook-Douglas Medal candidates, this was all made up
11. A TB Award of Merit runnerup, Sir Region 4 City
14. Gaulter must be High on this Rees runnerup
18. Arny's Louisiana won the Debaillon Award
19. Cook-Lapham winner that is off and running
20. The only Castle to win an award in 1972
23. Steve Varner's singing cousin won a TB Honorable Mention
25. Brizendine's H.M. SDB is Little, but don't eat this one
27. This Warrior fought his way to 3rd on the White list
29. Doosey got 29 votes for TB Honorable Mention
30. Keith Keppel's Cirle won a TB Award of Merit
32. Babson's great trip was a TB Honorable Mention

Answers on page 30.

CORNER

YOUNG IDEAS

by Robin Ellinwood

During the past 2 months, the F. S. Key Kids have really sprung into action. We thought about many creative ideas and carried out quite a few of them. Just before Christmas, Peggy Lou Roche demonstrated how to make parafin block candles. Each of us made a candle to decorate our Christmas tables, some with irises on them. During the same meeting, we decorated Christmas balls with irises. This project was a favorite among the little guys. At our next meeting, we made lens pins with iris pictures in them. While these dried, we worked on needlepoint squares with irises worked in. At both meetings we had great turnouts and lots of enthusiasm among all ages. Also, we discussed tentative plans for an accredited mini show for and by youth members. If the plans go through, we will have a full range of specimen classes for exhibitors under 19 and an adult-youth team arrangement class. The mini show is scheduled for May 20, 1973 at my home, 41 Greenmeadow Drive in Timonium. We have high hopes for a great show and good attendance.

ATTENTION! HYBRIDIZERS OF REGION 4

If you wish to submit further guest irises in 1973 for the National Convention in 1974, please notify me not later than June 15 as to number of varieties you wish to send. Our space is very limited and I must ask that you send no more than three rhizomes of any variety. These will be planted in a clump in one garden so that they have a good chance to bloom well the first year.

The plants must reach us no later than July 15.

RENA M. CRUMPLER
Guest Iris Chairman
1974 National Convention

CONVENTION REPORT

F. G. Stephenson

The Minutes of the Blue Ridge Chapter Meeting appearing elsewhere in this issue of NEWSCAST pretty well cover the progress of Convention Plans. It is encouraging to note the progress being made by some of the committees. Others are just waiting for the "gun" to get actively at work. John Dughi and his "Loot" Committee are rolling along as is Ann Dasch and her Program Booklet group. Of course, Rena Crumpler and the "guest irises" are good buddies by now. Helen Rucker, Assistant General Chairman in charge of Program and Hotel Arrangements, has done loads of work to get things off the ground. It is most wonderful to have such dedicated people behind our efforts. The support of the "average member" is not to be overlooked. Publicity headed by Blanche Rice is just about to get underway with our first release coming out in the July Bulletin.

Several Staff jobs are yet to be filled and it is expected that the response we receive will be just as enthusiastic as for other positions. Each and every member can join in and help us raise funds by the sale of notes mentioned in another article.

Southern Living Magazine is doing a wonderful job for us. They are featuring an Iris article in the May 1973 issue and Mr. Thompson, Garden Editor will be in Roanoke in May of this year, along with his Photographic Staff to photograph the Convention gardens. These will be featured in the May 1974 issue. This promises to be one of the more exciting happenings of our Convention publicity.

Plans are still flexible enough that we can incorporate any ideas you might have that will be of interest so do not hesitate to send them in.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Have you run into any merchandise featuring the iris? We are looking for items that would be suitable for sale at our Convention. We hope to have available at the 1974 Convention as many products as possible. These must feature the Iris Flower. There is a great demand for such and we can realize some profit to help with Convention expenses if we can make these items available.

Suggestions include, jewelry, paintings, linens, towels, fabrics, note paper, seals, glassware, place mats, china, etc. If you should have knowledge of anything in this line and its source, please write your Convention Chairman.

Presently we have samples of fold-over notes with a beautiful iris design which we are hoping the various chapters will promote. This is one means by which each Region 4 member may have an active part in the Convention. If you, as an individual, would be interested in helping, please write for information and samples.

The packets sell for \$1.00 each and move well. Having left 20 packets on my desk, all 20 were sold in one day without any sales pitch at all. We certainly can use all the help possible. Write:

F. G. STEPHENSON
Convention Chairman
5608 Merriman Road S. W.
Roanoke, Va. 24018

LIBRARIAN AND HISTORIAN'S REPORT **Elmira Purdy**

The Region 4 Library has had several exciting additions in the last few months—

1. "The ISCC-NBS Method of Designating Colors and a Dictionary of Color Names", a manual and supplement published by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards.
2. A 3 year membership in the Species Iris Study Group Issues No. 1 through No. 10 are already in our files.
3. A 3 year membership in the Dwarf Iris Society Portfolios:

Dwarf Iris Society 1961 Check List

Dwarf Iris Society Dec. 1970 No. 21

The Eupogon Iris Species in Cultivation—Median Iris Society 1970

All of these have come to our library through the interest and generosity of Ed. Hubbard in Roanoke.

In Newscast, December 1971, there were charts showing the issues of the Bulletin and Newcast that are in our library. As yet, there is no change in the chart.

A note from Elizabeth Farrar promises some material in the near future.

The Library contents are available to all Region 4 members. Postage it all it costs.

Two more scrapbooks have been purchased for the preservation of Region 4 memorabilia. Everyone has been marvelous in sending me news items and photos. Region 4 chapters are in the news and spreading the "iris news" for everyone to read. The Historian's Books will be on display at Fairfax.

CORRECTIONS IN MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

(December, 1972 NEWSCAST)

Blue Ridge Chapter

Correct ZIP

Mrs. Rena M. Crumpler, 2521 Wycliffe Ave., S. W.,
Roanoke, Va. 24014

Mr. Edward K. Hubbard, 2523 Carolina Ave., S.W.,
Roanoke, Va. 24014

Mrs. John W. McCoy, 3540 Windsor Road, S.W.,
Roanoke, Va. 24018

Mrs. Helen Rucker, 3205 Pineland Rd., S.W., Roanoke ,Va. 24018

Mrs. James H. Trent, 1915 Walmann Rd., S.W.,
Roanoke, Va. 24018

Correct name:

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson O. Price, 107 Wharton, "Jnlpri",
Blacksburg, Va. 24060

Mrs. J. B. Randels, Rt. 3, Box 333-13, Madison Heights, Va. 24572
Roanoke, Va. 24018

Transfer to Richmond Chapter:

Mrs. T. A. Williams, RFD 2, Box 103, Scottsville, Va. 24590

C. and P. CHAPTER

Transfer to Richmond Chapter:

Mrs. J. W. Waycaster, Rt. 2, Box 168, Dillwyn, Va. 23936

Transfer to F.S.K. Chapter:

Mrs. Geo. C. Swem, Sr., Rt. 2, Box 225, Darlington, Md. 21034

Correct name:

Mr. George I. Crossman, Rt. 1, Box 356, Hamilton, Va. 22068

Add: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Burger, 39 E. Patrick St.,
Frederick, Md. 21701

Correct address:

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Riss, 3012 N. Tuckahoe St.,
Arlington, Va. 22213

F. S. K. Chapter

Add:

Mrs. Geo. C. Swem, Sr., Rt. 2, Box 225, Darlington, Md. 21034

EASTERN N. C.

Add:

Dr. Roy Epperson, 1115 Delk Drive, High Point, N.C. 27262

RICHMOND CHAPTER

Add:

Mrs. T. A. Williams, RFD 2, Box 103, Scottsville, Va. 24590

Mrs. J. W. Waycaster, Rt. 2, Box 168, Dillwyn, Va. 23936

IRIS — IRIS — IRIS

Dr. Anne Lee

When we meet new Irisarians the question usually comes up "how did you become interested in Iris?" The answers are as varied as the people that you ask. If you ever have been to a gathering of Irisarians you will soon notice that they really are a motley crowd. Doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs, and an array of people from all walks of life. The Iris is a great equalizer. You are not very likely to hear any other topic discussed but Iris—Iris—Iris.

The most fascinating thing about the subject of Iris is that it will hold you spellbound, not for a little while or a season or two, but forever.

I have been growing Iris for more than twenty years. I was enchanted by such Iris as Blue Shimmer and Gudrun in a time

when we had hardly any true spectrum colors. California Gold looked as good to me as it probably looked to an early prospector. When Pink Cameo appeared, I thought this certainly was the ultimate. Up to this point ruffling or lace had not made the scene. Then came Cherie. Can the hybridizers do better? I soon found out. My first National meeting was the AIS convention in Chicago, and there I came face to face with some of the greats in the Iris world and some of the most beautiful Iris I had ever seen. Cliff Benson's never to be forgotten Skywatch. I still see it in the center of the bed, surrounded by a gaping crowd and the sounds of ah's and oh's in the air. The beautiful orange first seen at this meeting and the lovely pinks I saw stand out in my memory. So does a huge clump of Rainbow Gold. Here, too, was my first encounter with Java Dove, a real first.

The surprising thing with Iris is that not only new beauty and stamina is bred into them with clearer colors and better form, but as you go along you will be intrigued by the many members of this beautiful family.

Many years ago I talked to an English horticulturist and he said that the American gardener likes things big. The biggest dahlias, the biggest roses are his ambition. He said this was a sign of youth. Americans have not been gardening very long. The early settlers could not afford the luxury of a hobby such as this. He said the more sophisticated the gardener becomes, the more he sees small details and finesse in plant material.

In my own experience this holds true. There were many years when I grew only TBs, then I began to notice the little ones. The tiny lilliputs and dwarfs that brave the cold weather and appear while we are longing for springtime. Here you encounter new patterns, new and different color combinations and interesting contrasting beards. I would not like to be without these harbingers of springtime.

Soon, some natives, Danfordiae and Reticulatas found their way into my garden. I have coaxed some Iris Unguicularis into bloom and some snake-head Iris.

My friends sometimes teasingly ask if I garden in layers since I could not possibly grow so many plants in a postage stamp-sized city lot, but behold, I found some space for a few Spuria Iris and after the Portland convention some Tenax have made a trip to Virginia, and some California native seedlings have sprouted under a little pine straw.

My vocation is medicine, my avocation is gardening, and my love is Iris in this order. Over twenty years in the practice I have never lost my fascination with my profession. The same goes for my love for Iris that has never waned. I look forward to progress in medicine even though greater strides have been made during my lifetime than in all the time that went before, and so I look equally anxious into the future of the Iris yet to come.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Ewen
3. Regards
6. Murmuring
8. Swank
12. Shipshape
13. Beebop
15. Gigi
16. Maynard
17. Ego
21. Babbling Brook
22. Wood
24. Amber Accent
26. Touche
28. Mini-Plic
31. Fiesta Moon
33. Credo
34. Delta Star
35. Moss

DOWN

1. Ermine Robe
2. Pink Fringe
4. Dancer
5. Sun Sparkle
7. Riot
8. Cup Race
10. Shadow
11. Lord Baltimore
14. Sierra
18. Ila Nunn
19. Post Time
20. Greenan
23. Patti Page
25. Chestnut
27. Saracen
29. Itsa
30. Charmed
32. Odyssey

NEWS OF THE CHAPTERS

BLUE RIDGE Mrs. J. E. Rucker, Sr.

The Blue Ridge Chapter, Region 4, met at the Roanoke Garden Center at 2 pm, Feb. 3, 1973. Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. A. W. Rice. Fourteen members were present. Mr. Bill Kelley, Regional Vice-President, was our guest.

Mrs. Rice announced that Mrs. James Trent would be Treasurer following our loss of Mr. Gene Crumpler. Mrs. Trent reported a Balance of \$241.47 in our account as of this date.

Notes were read from Mrs. Crumpler, Mrs. Price and the Zurbriggs.

Mrs. Rice reported that the Chapter had been asked to host the Regional Meeting in 1975. Mr. Dave Merrill suggested the need for a Flower Show by that date. Motion was made by Mr. Fred Stephenson that we invite Region 4 to meet in Roanoke with the stipulation that the Meetings be scheduled around a Flower Show and other arrangements be decided by the Chapter. Mrs. Hunt Nenon seconded the Motion. It carried.

Mr. Fred Stephenson gave a detailed report of activities of "ROANOKE-REGION 4-IN 74". Mrs. Rena Crumpler is Guest Iris Chairman. Other Committee Chairman named were—

Mrs. J. E. Rucker—Vice-General Chairman and Program

Mrs. A. W. Rice—Publicity

Dr. A. W. Rice—Transportation

Mr. and Mrs. John Dughi—"Loot" Chairmen

Mrs. James Trent—Treasurer

Mrs. Russell M. Johnston—Hospitality

Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Brown—Registration

Mrs. Ann Dasch—Convention Booklet Chairman

Mr. Stephenson is working with Southern Living Magazine, Roanoke Merchants Association and several other groups for Publicity and Recognition.

Mrs. Rena Crumpler reported on the progress for the Guest Irises. She gave out report blanks for each "Guest" host or hostess to report to her by June 1st so that she may make her report to the hybridizers by July 1st.

Mr. Stephenson gave out samples of note paper to each to order and sell for the Chapter. He demonstrated the printing of a Label that he wants used in the Exhibit Gardens.

Mr. Bill Kelley made several suggestions to be considered to improve the Convention. He congratulated the Chapter on the progress that has been made.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY
Ann Dasch

As this issue goes to press, FKS plans include several new innovations. The regular Spring Luncheon Meeting is scheduled for the home of Chapter Chairman, Alice Miller. A program planned by Claire Barr and Rosalie Figge will be based upon a slide survey of recent Region 4 activities.

Local Judges' Training classes, covering eighteen hours of required classwork, will be offered by the Chapter and instructed by Ann Dasch. Classes will be held on March 3 and 24, April 28 and May 19. Topics and details are available on request and members of other chapters are invited to attend.

Tentative plans also call for a car-pooled garden tour of local members' gardens but the date has not yet been announced. Youth Members are organizing an accredited mini-show and currently awaiting approval of their schedule.

MARYDEL
Paul L. Hoffmeister

Since our last notes in the Newscast, Marydel Chapter Chairman, Elmira Purdy and Region 4's newly appointed Test Garden

Chairman, Jean Hoffmeister, have attended the Region 4 Executive Board meeting held in Harrisonburg, Va. in early November. The Hoffmeisters—yes, husbands tagged along—stopped on the way for a familiarization visit at Region 4's test garden in Warrenton, Va. Mrs. Anna Walrad, the able custodian, graciously displayed her new but extensive "Edgewood Gardens" which appear to be recovering rapidly from ravages of "Agnes". It appears the plants like the newly cleared soil at the edge of the woods near the Walrad's new house.

This year Marydel Chapter is rotating its meetings around the towns from which our dozen or so active members come. So far we've met in Easton and Greensboro, with the February meeting in Oxford. The December meeting took the form of a Christmas party complete with gifts, plus our customary drawing for a door prize rhizome (to be delivered in July, of course). We find our change from dinner meetings at a single location to Sunday afternoon at rotated locations to have improved our attendance in this far-flung but sparsely populated region.

At our December meeting, we welcomed a new member, Richard Kleen of St. Michaels, a very much needed male to balance our membership, at least in the opinion of the writer.

In the coming events department, our annual show is set for Thursday, May 17 at the Easton Fire House' beautiful auditorium. Entry time is 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Show opens at 2:00 p.m. Our annual auction will be held as usual in the grounds of the Diocesan House, Easton, at 1:00 p.m., July 7.

NORFOLK Dr. Anne Lee

The Norfolk Chapter met January 28, 1973 at 2 P.M. in the auditorium of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Our Chapter, even though appearing augmented in the last Newscast, is quite small since more than half of the listed members are just that—listed, but not partaking in our effort. Nevertheless, we had a nice meeting and the main discussion concentrated on membership increase. Our new member, Mr. Fred Heuette, promised us publicity in his weekly column in the local paper and the possibility

of inviting one of us as speaker to his newly formed Men's Garden Club. He jokingly said that even though they have only men as members this does not exclude a female speaker. He also invited us to display various Iris categories at their meeting to acquaint his members with the multitude of Iris that can be grown in the Tidewater area. We will strive to do this because so many people are unaware that there are other than tall-bearded Iris.

Some plans were discussed of the role the Chapter should have in the 1974 National convention and all members were asked to try to go to the Regional in Maryland as well as the National Convention since both places are easy to reach.

As this was a dreary cold afternoon, everybody seemed to look forward to Iris time not so far away.

KOMMENTS FROM KIRKLEE

Roy Epperson

You and I, like all gardeners who grow and appreciate the iris, are judges! We may not have attended judges' schools, we may not be on the official list of Apprentice or Accredited or Exhibition or Senior or Honorary Judges, yet each of us is a judge every time we decide to add a particular variety to our plantings! We may not follow the established rules of judging in making our selection—but we have judged, nevertheless! Many factors enter into our selection of a variety—color, form, garden value, novelty effect, disease resistance, parentage, etc. Yes, there are established rules of judging. These are not arbitrary, but are the sum total of past experience of numerous iris growers and hybridizers. Are there needs for rules? Most certainly !! The awards structure of the A.I.S. depends upon the judgement of the members of the Society. Each judge, ideally, will be reaching a decision based upon the same set of rules that all other judges use. In reality, there is too great a tendency to permit personal bias to enter into the judgement.

To be as well informed as you can, attend judging schools whenever available and read the many valuable publications of the A.I.S. Each of us should own and use the following: HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND SHOW OFFICIALS, HAN-

BOOK FOR A.I.S. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS, COLOR CLASSIFICATION. The information in them is invaluable and you have spent only \$4.10. Your iris library would profit by the inclusion of IRIS CHECK LIST-1969, IRIS CHECK LIST-1959, and the annual REGISTRATION list.

The best way to learn judging is to grow as many varieties as you can and to visit as many plantings as you can each bloom season. You are most welcome to come to Kirklee. Hopefully (weather permitting) you should see bloom on these 1973 introductions: Neubert: DEEP IN SNOW, NIGHT VISITOR, EVER CHARMING; Niswonger: DREAM FANTASY, SUNRISE HUSH; Plough: CRYSTAL LACE, DARK ALLURE, FIREBREAK, INTERPOL, MISSION RIDGE, RAIN OR SHINE, SECRET SOCIETY, TASMANIAN, TOUCH OF SPICE, KONA COAST; Daling: SINGING RAIN. These hybridizers have already determined that these varieties are worthy of introduction. Should you and I, then, not consider them as material for judging? We should consider them to be judged, for how can we recommend to others if we have not made our own evaluation?

As you view the beauties of the iris world this bloom season look for more than just color or size or ruffling—BE A JUDGE!!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSCAST JULY 1, 1973

INGLESIDE GARDENS

Quality Irises at Reasonable Prices

TALL BEARDED & MEDIAN

Species, Japanese Spuria, Siberian, Dutch and Seedling Irises

On Display

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

Extra Bonus Rhizomes on AIS Youth Member Orders

FRED and ADELAIDE STEPHENSON

5608 Merriman Rd., S.W. Phone 703-774-0202 Roanoke, Va. 24018

CATALOG ON REQUEST

GENE & GERRY'S IRIS GARDENS

39 E. Patrick St.

Frederick, Maryland 21701

Featuring introductions by:

G. & G. Burger

G. I. Crossman

Dr. D. C. Nearpass

List of Newer Varieties on request

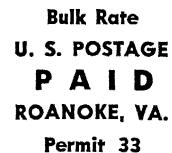
MAPLECROFT IRIS GARDENS

RFD #1, Box 155A

Greensboro, Maryland 21639

800 varieties—Tall Bearded, old and new and Dwarfs

LIST ON REQUEST



INDEX

	PAGE
Editorial Staff	1
AIS Region 4 Board	2
AIS Judges—1973	4
Editor's Page	<i>Rena Crumpler</i>
RVP's Message	<i>W. D. Kelley</i>
Region 4 Annual Meeting	<i>D. C. Nearpass</i>
C. & P. Chapter Gardens	<i>D. C. Nearpass</i>
Spring Judges' Training Class	<i>F. G. Stephenson</i>
Exciting New Auction Irises	<i>Rena Crumpler</i>
Region 4 Financial Report	<i>W. D. Kelley</i>
Region 4 Finances	<i>W. D. Kelley</i>
Regional Test Garden	<i>Jean M. Hoffmeister</i>
Legend of the Iris	<i>Elmira Purdy</i>
The Truly Red Iris	<i>Dave Niswonger</i>
Crossword Puzzle	<i>Ann Dasch</i>
Young Ideas	<i>Robin Ellinwood</i>
Attention! Hybridizers of Region 4	<i>Rena Crumpler</i>
Convention Report	<i>F. G. Stephenson</i>
Help! Help! Help!	<i>F. G. Stephenson</i>
Librarian and Historians Report	<i>Elmira Purdy</i>
Corrections in Membership Roster	27
Iris — Iris — Iris	<i>Dr. Anne Lee</i>
Answers to Crossword Puzzle	30
News of the Chapters :	
Blue Ridge	<i>Mrs. J. E. Rucker Sr.</i>
Francis Scott Key	<i>Ann Dasch</i>
Marydel	<i>Paul L. Hoffmeister</i>
Norfolk	<i>Dr. Anne Lee</i>
Komments From Kirklee	<i>Roy Epperson</i>