

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

REGION

4

NEWS
CAST

VOLUME 17

APRIL, 1975

NO. 2

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the month of May brings on the colorful bloom of the Iris flower; and

WHEREAS, members of the Blue Ridge Chapter, Region Four of The American Iris Society are sharing the beauty of their Iris gardens with the people of Roanoke and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, said Blue Ridge Chapter is hosting Iris fanciers from the states of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and the District of Columbia at a convention in the City of Roanoke.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roy L. Webber, Mayor of the City of Roanoke do hereby proclaim May 11, 1975, through May 17, 1975 as

IRIS WEEK

in Roanoke, Virginia, and I encourage all citizens of our community to enjoy this week of beauty.

Roy L. Webber

ATTEST:

Mayor

Mary F. Parker

City Clerk



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3505 White Chapel Road
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Phone 804-625-2644

ASSOCIATE EDITOR—NEWSCAST

Mrs. Rena M. Crumpler
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Phone 703-344-2341

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AUCTIONS AND AWARDS

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF—NEWSCAST

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

MEDIAN IRISES

Mrs. Rena W. Kizziar
2704 Tidewater Drive
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PHOTOGRAPHY

Dr. D. C. Nearpass
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Mrs. Rena M. Crumpler
2521 Wycliffe Ave., S.W.
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EDITOR'S PAGE

With this issue I have included several articles that are somewhat different from those that have usually appeared in NEWSCAST. You will find an article on *Iris pseudacorus*, one on the general theme of "Remember When?", and one on the culture of companion plants or shrubs to the iris. It is my hope that an article of each of these types will appear in each succeeding issue of NEWSCAST. It would be most helpful to me as Editor if you would drop me a card letting me know whether you like or dislike such changes and whether you might have any suggestions for change. Always try to write an article at least once a year. It is quite difficult to put an issue together when there is not sufficient material submitted by you, the membership!

Let me express my sincere appreciation to Mrs. Jack Bowersox (Jean) for accepting the responsibilities for Subscriptions and Mailing of the NEWSCAST. This is an involved and too often thankless task. To you, Jean, on behalf of the membership THANK YOU!!

Mrs. Ira E. Wood (Betty), Display Garden Chairman of the Median Iris Society, writes to remind us of the MIS Display Gardens in Region 4. Please make an effort to visit one or more of these gardens and increase your awareness of the iris classes.

The gardens are:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoffmeister, Box 462, Neavitt, Md., 21652

Mrs. Rena Kizziar, 2704 Tidewater Dr., Norfolk, Va. 23509

Mr. F. G. Stephenson, 5608 Merriman Rd., SW,
Roanoke, Va. 24018

Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Zurbrigg, 903 Tyler Ave.,
Radford, Va. 24141

REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS IN 1974 show that two more of our hybridizers in Region 4 have registered and/or introduced their progeny. Nannie Paquet of McLeansville, N.C., registered TELAKA and Mrs. Milton Ogburn, Smithfield, N.C., registered and introduced LOFTY LAVENDER and ORCHID PRIZE. All accredited judges should make every effort to encourage hybridizers by visiting their gardens at bloomtime and offering constructive criticism in the seedling patch.

Roy

* * * * *

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSCAST IS

JULY 16, 1975!!!

RVP'S MESSAGE

Iris time will be upon us when this NEWSCAST will be in your hands. I would like to urge everyone again to try to go to the National Convention and if this cannot be done make plans to attend the Regional meeting in Roanoke. Many irises will be on display that were permitted to stay in Roanoke. Much can be gained by attending such a meeting. Not only will you see irises well grown, the new and the newest, as well as the older proven varieties, but you will be able to meet the hybridizers. We are all a little conceited. We look at our gardens much like a mother looks at her child, lovingly and often overlooking its shortcomings. When you see a well kept display of irises a great deal better grown than your own, you may go home and do something about it. The visits to the gardens also let you look at some introductions that have tempted you in the catalogue where their description conjured something extraordinary in your imagination. You may find the beauty was only in the eye of the beholder, in this case the hybridizer. Naturally this is not true in all cases. You may also see some iris that did not receive any special praise, but you may find it delightful. No catalogue can picture an iris in all its charm. It has to be seen.

If no Convention trip can be arranged, please visit as many gardens as possible in your own vicinity. Not only will you please your friends by this visit but you, too, will benefit.

Bloom time is the best time to recruit new members. Region 4 has fallen behind quite dramatically. Please try hard this year so we will move ahead, not backward.

I also would like to see more interest in other than tall bearded irises. You are missing a great deal if you do not grow some of the charming medians. There are a number of display gardens in Region 4. Siberian and Japanese will lend a special note to your garden. The elegant Spurias should not be forgotten, and some rebloomers will prolong your iris season.

I hope I will see many of you at iris time.

Anne Lee—RVP

AIS JUDGES
January 1, 1975

REGION 4

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- G *RVP Dr. Anne L. Lee 3505 White Chapel Road,
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- G Mr. Weldon W. Ballard 1304 Canal Drive, Chesapeake, Va. 23323
- G Mrs. Jack Bowersox 1732 Whitfield Drive, Bedford, Va. 24523
- S Mrs. F. Allen Brown 4326 Grandin Rd. Ext., Roanoke, Va. 24018
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- G Mrs. Maynard E. Harp 605 Kingston Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21212
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- G Mrs. Paul L. Hoffmeister Box 462, Neavitt, Md. 21652
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 G *Mr. William D. Kelley 653 Wash. St., E., Lewisburg, W.Va. 24901

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(no entries)

*Present or Former Regional Vice President

REGION 4 CONVENTION
"RETURN TO ROANOKE IN '75"

Sponsored by:

THE BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER, REGION 4, A. I. S.
MAY 16, 17, 1975

Headquarters:

Holiday Inn, South
1927 Franklin Road, S. W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

REGISTRATION FEES

Entire Convention:

Before May 1, 1975	\$22.00
After May 1, 1975	23.50
Youth Members	18.50
Saturday Bus Tour with lunch	12.50
Banquet only	8.00

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 16

1:00 P.M. — Executive Board Meeting

8.00 P.M. — Reception and Auction

SATURDAY, MAY 17

8:30 A.M. — Buses depart from Headquarters

12:30 P.M. — Lunch Holiday Inn, Exit 40, I-81

4:30 P.M. — Buses return to Headquarters

6:45 P.M. — Banquet

Speaker—Dr. William G. McGarvey

Subject — Siberian Irises

REGISTRATION AND MOTEL INFORMATION

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

(Make check payable to: Blue Ridge Chapter, A.I.S.)

Send registration to:

Mrs. Jack Bowersox, Registrar
1732 Whitfield Drive
Bedford, Virginia 24523

Send Motel reservations direct to:

Holiday Inn, South
1927 Franklin Road, S. W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

Single	\$16.50
Double	23.00

plus tax

(Children under 12 FREE with parents in same room)

A block of 25 rooms is being held through May 6.

When making reservations, please state that you are attending A.I.S. Convention.

Complete your arrangements from the foregoing information. We are not making a separate convention mailing as we have in former years so as to keep your registration fee as reasonable as possible.

Region 4 is well represented at the national level of the A.I.S. in the following members:

Director and Chairman, Exhibitions: Mrs. Rena Crumpler

Director: Mr. Earl T. Browder

Chairman, Slides: Dr. D. C. Nearpass

Chairman, Youth: Mrs. Robert E. Dasch

REGIONAL CONVENTION — 1975

Our Mayor of Roanoke, Mr. Roy L. Webber, has declared May 11—17 Iris Week in Roanoke for the occasion of our tours for the general public and our Regional Meeting.

The Blue Ridge Chapter is planning a good meeting and tour for you on May 16 and 17. With the weather cooperating, we will have a lot to show you that you may not have seen last year and you will be able to view many plants again and spend more time in evaluating them. The hybridizers were generous in leaving enough stock of most things to make a showing. Among them are a good many irises that will be introduced this year. Instead of stripping our gardens as you might suppose, they are as "full up" as ever. We also have some new seedlings from Region 4 hybridizers which you won't want to miss.

Our Headquarters, The Holiday Inn, South, represents a change from the Patrick Henry Hotel, originally scheduled. This motel is conveniently located between two shopping centers, The Towers and the new Tanglewood Mall. Just as convenient is downtown Roanoke. The motel has excellent facilities and good food. There is a swimming pool to please the youth members and some of their parents.

Coming from West or North on I-81 take the Roanoke spur 581. Get off at the last exit, go one block and Holiday Inn is on your right. From the South, keep straight on Rt. 220 (Franklin Road from the city limits), proceed straight under the N. and W. overpass. The Holiday Inn is in the first block on your left beyond the underpass. From the East, come in on Rt. 460 (Orange Avenue from the city limits), proceed to the exit marked "581 SOUTH". Follow 581 to last exit, go one block and Holiday Inn is on your right.

Many of you will remember the charming and knowledgeable Dr. William G. McGarvey who has been with us before as speaker and instructor in Judges' Training. He is now Emeritus Professor and retired from New York University at Oswego. He has consented to return to us this year to speak on Siberian Irises. We are fortunate indeed, to have, not only a talented speaker, but one of the world's finest hybridizers of Siberians and an eminent authority on the subject. We brought some of his lovely things to bloom at Convention time last year and hope to do it again.

Mrs. Eloise Nenon, Judges' Training Chairman, has authorized Dr. McGarvey's talk at the Banquet to be counted as Judges' Training for those who need it for credit. She will have further announcements to make in this regard at the meeting.

We will tour the gardens of Mrs. B. E. Crumpler, The Roanoke Garden Center, under the supervision of Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Allen Brown, Mrs. John W. McCoy and Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Stephenson. Since all of these gardens were described in detail by many people before and after the National Convention last year, we will not write of them again. We will say only, that if you thought you saw it all last year, no two seasons are alike and you're certain to see something different this May. Besides, think of all the wonderful friends you will be able to chat with!

In any event, it will be worthwhile and we are expecting you to come, enjoy yourselves and, as usual, make our Regional Meeting the highlight of our Iris year.

Rena Crumpler, Convention Chairman
Mildred Trent, Co-Chairman

Dear Ann Landers: A while back you printed several letters from readers who insisted that when they spoke gently to plants and flowers they flourished beautifully. Will you please tell me if yelling at weeds will stunt their growth or maybe even kill them? Logical in Lubbock.

Dear Logical: I checked with two horticulturists and neither one gave me any assurance that yelling at weeds would make a darned bit of difference. So save your pipes.

As our RVP Anne Lee says "There is no way out, we will have to weed the iris beds."

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R E G I O N A L A U C T I O N

Friday night, May 16

NEEDED ! Irises to be auctioned

Won't you help support the activities of the Region by donating one or more rhizomes of recent introduction? I'll start it off by giving one rhizome each of SWAN POND (Neubert '74) and WALTZING WIDOW (Roach '73). Just send a post card to me, Roy Epperson, 1115 Delk Drive, High Point, N.C. 27262, indicating the number of rhizomes and the varieties that you are donating. Please mail the card so I will receive it by May 10.

NEEDED ! Members to bid on the iris at auction.

Plan to attend the Regional meeting and to participate in the Regional Auction.

I hope to hear from you and to see you in Roanoke!

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TOUR FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE FEATURE OF IRIS WEEK IN ROANOKE

SHARING

Irisarians in Roanoke, Bassett, Chatham, Glade Hill and Blacksburg want to share the beauty of their Irises and gardens with others on May 12, 13 and 14, 1975.

The following have very kindly invited the public to visit their gardens on these dates: Mrs. B. E. Crumpler, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Allen Brown, Mrs. John W. McCoy, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Stephenson in Roanoke; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Davis, Bassett; Col. and Mrs. Hunt Nenon, Chatham; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Johnson, Glade Hill; Mr. and Mrs. Nelson O. Price, Blacksburg.

This is the first time that such an opportunity has been given the public.

Headquarters will be the Garden Center of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 2712 Avenham Avenue, S. W., Roanoke, Virginia. Here, from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. on these dates: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 12, 13 and 14, the public may register for these tours or visits. They will receive information as to directions etc. and a donation of \$1.00 will entitle them to see any or all of the gardens during the entire three days. At the Garden Center, there will also be beautiful iris display beds that are under the supervision of Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Rice.

Remember, these gardens are to be SHARED, not just with garden club members but with the general public. However, ATTENTION — Garden Club Presidents and Program Chairmen — Can you think of a better program for your club than a visit to these gardens? You will be charmed with the beauty of the gardens, the hospitality of the garden owners and also, may "share" many practical ideas for landscaping.

See you at Iris time.

Mrs. Russell (Helen) Johnston
Chairman, "Sharing Iris Gardens"
P. O. Box 209, Salem, Virginia 24153
Telephone (703) 389-4393

IRIS SALE IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC TOUR

We are holding a sale of iris rhizomes at The Roanoke Garden Center on May 12, 13 and 14, in connection with the Public Tour. We need your help. Send what rhizomes you can spare of standard varieties—modern irises—introduced within the past ten to twelve years. Mark them as to color. These may be, but need not be marked as to variety. Don't worry if the rhizomes are not as large as you would like, but, they should not have been out of the ground but a day or two when you send them. We are depending especially on you North Carolina, Eastern and Southern Virginia and Eastern Maryland people whose seasons will be on the wane by that time.

We are holding this type of sale at this time as a get-acquainted gesture for the interested people taking the Public Tour. All donations will be gratefully accepted. You know, we can't do it without your help!

Bring or send rhizomes to reach, by May 10:

Mrs. A. W. Rice
2817 Avenham Avenue, S.W.
Roanoke, Va. 24014

Mrs. A. W. (Blanche) Rice
Chairman, "Sharing Irises" Sale

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Lucille Fin Kirby (Mickey)

Mickey, as she was known by her friends, died February 25th, 1975 after a long illness.

A native of Michigan, she spent her young days as secretary to a New York construction firm. She married Guy Kirby and after some moving around the country they settled in Norfolk, Virginia forty-five years ago. The late Mrs. Reynolds of Memphis, Tenn. interested her in irises. She was, for many years, a Robin director and she made sure that she met all her Robin friends at Convention time. Her sharp Irish wit and irrespressible sense of humor were her trade mark. Clip board in hand, she loved to attend National Conventions to meet old friends and make new ones. Mickey lost her husband tragically a number of years ago and she had no children or other close relatives, but her death will be mourned by her many friends.

THE GENUS IRIS: a review

Extracted from the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, v.39, August 1913. "The Genus Iris" by W. R. Dykes. Fol., 245 pp., 48 colored plates (University Press, Cambridge.)

P. J. Chittenden

This monograph has been looked forward to for some time, and expectation will not be disappointed. The book is indeed a happy combination of scientific investigation and practical information. The author has proceeded on the very rational assumption that the best way to know the genus is to grow it. Hence, though he has made the fullest possible use of all available herbarium material, he has, whenever feasible, verified everything by observation of the actual life of the plants. To this end he has himself formed a truly remarkable collection, and it is a striking fact that all the plates, save one, were drawn from plants flowered in the open in the author's own garden.

The gardener will find clear and careful suggestions in the chapter on Cultivation, in the sections at the end of the book on hybridizing and on growing from seed, and at the end of the description of each species. Certain time-honored heresies about irises die hard, but it is to be hoped that they are moribund and that Mr. Dykes' authority will help to kill them: e.g. it is still believed by many that irises in general are lovers of damp, if not of shade. Presumably this last belief comes from putting together the facts that of the two English species *I. pseudacorus* is a water-lover and *I. foetidissima* is often found in woods. In this connection attention may be called to Mr. Dykes' curious test of habitat: any iris whose leaves, on being held up to the light, show small black spots, is a water-lover. It will perhaps be news to some that most irises arrive from seed so quickly at flowering size: eighteen months from the time of germination is given as a long enough period for many bearded and beardless kinds, while a remarkable instance is given of an *I. pumila* whose seeds germinated in spring and produced plants which flowered the same autumn.

Naturally such notes occupy but a small proportion of the text, but, while the description of each species and subspecies includes an exhaustive account of its distribution and introduction, with full diagnosis (in Latin) and botanical description, matters which the unbotanical gardener will perhaps pass over lightly, in most cases some "observations" are added which are

full of various interesting details for the unlearned, with not a few acute inferences and conjectures. As an instance may be mentioned the suggestion that *I. albicans* owes its introduction to Europe to the Mohammedan invasion, since this plant was apparently planted regularly in the cemeteries of the faithful: in that case it is probably of Arabian origin.

Doubtless the most important scientific feature of the book is to be found in the enormous advance which it makes toward a satisfactory classification of the genus. The result is in general a great simplification of the current nomenclature. The author has the caution of the really scientific mind. Some of his results should be of interest to others besides professed botanists.

Has anyone raised from seed (or fertilized with any other kind) the ordinary form of *I. germanica*, with which we are all familiar, and which some still regard as the "type" of all the absurdly so-called 'German' irises? I may say that I have occasionally gathered a single seed pod naturally fertilized, and that I have two or three seedlings which have not at present flowered, and which do not seem to grow with the indomitable vigor of their parent.

Of the plates, little need be said except by way of praise both for the drawing and the reproduction. The colors are in nearly every case marvellously faithful, and the character of each kind is well shown. The plate of seeds is an interesting study. Two hybrids raised by the author are figured as having points of special interest; one between *fulva* and *foliosa*, neither of which has probably been crossed before, the other between *loppio* and *tectorum*, in which the crest of the latter species appears as well as the beard of the former.

THE GENUS IRIS—1974

THE GENUS IRIS by W. R. Dykes, originally published in 1913, is now a collector's item and is available only rarely and at prices in excess of \$350 !!

Interest in this work was renewed in 1974 when Dover Publications, Inc., published an unabridged republication of this work originally published by the Cambridge University Press in 1913. In this reprint edition, the text and all the figures and plates are shown 20 per cent smaller than in the original work. This reduction in size in no way reduces the beauty of the plates and the elegant logic of the classifications set forth by Dykes. The real reduction is in the price. This clothbound reprint is available at the amazing price of only \$20.00!! Your editor was fortunate to receive a copy as a Christmas present and assures you that it is indeed a bargain at this price. (The spice in our lives not only tolerate our involvement with iris but even encourage us by such thoughtful gifts as this!)

The following brief biographical sketch and the list of U.S. Dykes Medal Winners that follows gives some insight into his contributions to study and understanding of iris.

WILLIAM RICKATSON DYKES

Born 1877, died 1926. Educated at Wadham College, Oxford, and at the Sorbonne, Paris. He was Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society at the time of his death, and he had been Assistant Master of Charterhouse during the years 1903-1919. Besides **The Genus Iris** (1913), his publications included **Irises** (1911), **Handbook of Garden Irises** (1924), and **The Lorette System of Pruning** (1925). While growing many irises in his own garden, he created the first completely yellow tall bearded variety, given the name "W. R. Dykes" by his widow. In 1926, the British Iris Society instituted the Dykes Memorial Medal as a memorial to him. It is now the highest award for an iris, and it may be given annually to two varieties of proven garden merit, one in England, and the other in the United States or Canada.

U. S. DYKES MEDAL WINNERS

1927	SAN FRANCISCO (Mohr-Mitchell)	1953	TRULY YOURS (Fay)
1928	No award	1954	MARY RANDALL (Fay)
1929	DAUNTLESS (C. P. Cornell)	1955	SABLE NIGHT (Cook)
1930	No award	1956	FIRST VIOLET (DeForest)
1931	No award	1957	VIOLET HARMONY (Lowry)
1932	RAMESES (H. P. Sass)	1958	BLUE SAPPHIRE (Schreiners)
1933	CORALIE (Ayers)	1959	SWAN BALLEET (Muhlestein)
1934	No award	1960	No award
1935	SIERRA BLUE (Essig)	1961	ELEANOR'S PRIDE (Watkins)
1936	MARY GEDDES (Stahlmap-Washington)	1962	WHOLE CLOTH (Cook)
1937	MISSOURI (Grinter)	1963	AMETHYST FLAME (Schreiners)
1938	COPPER LUSTER (Kirkland)	1964	ALLEGIANCE (Cook)
1939	ROSY WINGS (Gage)	1965	PACIFIC PANORAMA (Sexton)
1940	WABASH (Williamson)	1966	RIPPLING WATERS (Fay)
1941	THE RED DOUGLAS (J. Sass)	1967	WINTER OLYMPICS (O. Brown)
1942	GREAT LAKES (Cousins)	1968	STEPPING OUT (Schreiners)
1943	PRAIRIE SUNSET (H. Sass)	1969	No award
1944	SPUN GOLD (Glutzbeck)	1970	SKYWATCH (C. Benson)
1945	ELMOHR (Loomis)	1971	DEBBY RAIRDON (Kuntz)
1946	No Award	1972	BABBBLING BROOK (Keppel)
1947	CHIVALRY (Wills)	1973	NEW MOON (Sexton)
1948	OLA KALA (J. Sass)	1974	SHIPSHAPE (Babson)
1949	HELEN McGREGOR (Graves)		
1950	BLUE RHYTHM (Whiting)		
1951	CHERIE (Hall)		
1952	ARGUS PHEASANT (DeForest)		

OUR APPARENT SEMI-ENTHUSIASM TOWARD THE ARILS—ARILBREDS

Les Peterson

In many areas, especially those in warmer climates, Arils and Arilbreds march, perhaps less triumphantly than their Tall Bearded cousins, but nevertheless gingerly forward, if the word 'gingerly' is suited to the progression of an iris. We seem somewhat reluctant to accept them, except in a minor way into our gardens. We seem unaware of their bewitching, exotic beauty. Our somewhat scant interest in the Arils and Arilbreds, may, and likely does, stem from a few logical reasons, a few connecting facts.

True, some of these irises are more difficult of growth in many areas. The pure Arils (known as species); such varieties as *I. susiana*, *I. gatesii*, *I. loretettii*, and many others of various specie types are less hardy, and consequently more susceptible to adverse winter conditions. Because of this tenderness it may be doubtful if inexperienced attempts at growing them would be a rewarding experience. More time and more money might be spent on new stock and its upkeep than may be feasible or practical. Undependable winter conditions are somewhat detrimental to their growth. These irises are characteristic of early foliage growth with the first warm days of late winter and early spring and consequently they are sometimes damaged by lingering frosts to an extent that may cause partial destruction of the plant.

Special mulches and other cultural care can most likely prevent these damaging conditions to a marked degree, but the effort is time consuming and still likely to be a costly risk. This, of course, applies to the more delicate of these irises—the pure Arils. The cultural problem connected with the Arilbreds is somewhat similar but far less exacting. With the exception of their blooming earlier, they are very nearly as easily cared for as the Tall Bearded. These Arilbreds, because of early blooming tendencies, can occasionally be damaged by late frost though the hurt is less severe.

Most originations of the late C. G. White are rightly adaptable to our environmental perplexities. The CGW type can be grown with comparative ease and these irises are worthy, indeed, of our acceptance of them. It is entirely possible that most

of us are acquainted with—and many of us are familiarly aware of the easy growing habits of such alluring hybrids as TROPHY, NINEVEH, ANGELIQUE, SIR GORDON, ESTHER THE QUEEN, etc. A newcomer to this fascinating hybrid group and one that is showing much promise is Tell's LEBANESE SNOW.

Our meager interest, our cool semi-neglect of these irises may stem from the fact that they are earlier to bloom and more liable to frost damage. This should really not be a deciding factor. It could be that we are too TB-minded. We may have acquired a snug feeling of complacency toward the Tall Beardeds, and even though they are a little later with their bloom season we may be content to wait for them. Most likely we are depriving ourselves and our gardens of this earlier beauty because of our willingness to find satisfaction in the showing of the TBs.

Test gardens have been established in connection with the viewing and studying of these irises. One such garden is at Rescue, California; another is at Albuquerque, New Mexico. A recent report indicates that other such test gardens are contemplated in other areas. The purpose of these gardens is of importance and benefit to the hybridizer. The gardens are also of such significance to judges by affording them an opportunity to more quickly and efficiently evaluate more irises with a single visit. They can also more readily place their findings before the general membership and help us to select better irises of these types to more appropriately fill our requirements.

HOSTA PLANTS BRIGHTEN SHADED GARDEN AREAS

Charles O. Bell

Supt. of Grounds, UNC-G

(Reprinted from the Greensboro Daily News, Sat., Jan. 18, 1975)

To read about summer plants in mid-winter may seem a bit out of place, especially if the ground is covered with snow. But winter is the time to plan for summer beauty; time to order plants for spring planting; and, in general, to think of the future.

Among the great plants for the partially shaded summer garden are the Hostas, sometimes listed as *Funkia* and commonly called Plantain-lilies. The reason for the common name is obvious: The plants do somewhat resemble the common lawn weed—the plantain—but not in size or flower.

But hostas are not weeds; they are highly decorative garden plants and at least one species produces very fragrant flowers. Species or varieties can be chosen for almost any garden spot, large or small; you can choose from green, green and white, green and yellow or blue-green leaves. Several other species may be chosen as companion plants to give varying effects.

Hosta, in general, requires partial or light shade for best growth. They will grow in deep shade but leaf color is not maintained as well on some types and flowering is not as prolific in deep shade although hosta is grown more for foliage than flowers.

As you know, there are exceptions to most rules, and *Hosta plantaginea* is an exception to that statement. It has the most fragrant flowers of all the Hostas. Its flower scapes are a couple of feet high and the up-tilted white flowers are 4 to 5 inches long. The plant leaves are usually not over a foot high and the plant may be used as a ground cover in lightly shaded areas.

Hosta fortunei has flowers with less, or no, fragrance although the scape of lavender-to-whitish flowers may be three feet tall. Its green leaves are five inches long and three inches wide. Its variety 'Giganta' has leaves 12 inches long and it can form a clump several feet across. The variety 'marginato-alba' has leaves edged with white. Still another variety, 'aurea marmorata,' has large glaucous green leaves splotched with yellow.

One of my favorites is *Hosta sieboldiana* which may be listed in catalogs as *H. glauca*. This one has large blue-green leaves 10-15 inches long and 6-10 inches wide. The leaves are puckered into a texture resembling seersucker. Flower spokes are low—not much above the leaves—and flowers are light lavender. The variety *H. sieboldiana elegans* has been given the varietal name 'Blue Angel'; this variety grows somewhat larger than the species.

H. sieboldiana aureo-marginata retains its blue-green color but has a wide irregular edging of yellow. There is also a Golden Sieboldiana with leaves entirely yellow. This would be a very attractive focal point in the midst of evergreens.

There are species which grow lower and smaller than these and there are new hybrids of various sizes.

Hosta lancifolia has slender lance-shaped leaves which are waxy green. Its variety 'Kabitan' seem to have leaves narrower than the species. 'Albomarginata' has leaves edged in white; 'tardiflora' flowers in the fall (the latest flowering hosta) whereas other species begin flowering in mid- to late summer. These narrow leaved types could be planted for contrast with the larger types.

Hosta undulata has wavy leaves 6-8 inches long with white variegations. The variety 'media picta' grows somewhat larger. *Hosta decorata*, sometimes listed as *H. 'Thomas-Hogg'*, is a compact plant with blunt leaves up to eight inches long edged with white. These species and varieties could be used as edging or ground cover.

A new hosta I've seen in pictures only is 'Krossa Regal' which was an Award Winner at the National Hosta Convention in 1974. It differs from the hostas I've seen in that its leaves are upright, much as Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and flower stalks may reach six feet in height.

Hostas are not as well known as some other plants. There is no All America Selection Committee as with roses. But there is an American Hosta Society at 980 Stanton Avenue, Baldwin, N.Y., 11510. If you want to know where to get some of these plants they may be able to give you the information.

IRIS PSEUDACORUS

Another garden iris of common occurrence is *IRIS PSEUDACORUS* L., the common yellow-flag iris of Europe, of most robust nature, growing freely both in sun and in shade, in dry and in moist situations. For its best development it should be grown in the open with an abundant supply of water. It increases rapidly, soon forming heavy clumps with 4- to 6-foot straplike leaves and flowering stalks scarcely as high. There are many flowers on each stalk, varying considerably in size and in shade of yellow, approaching pure white in some forms, and also in the amount of brown reticulation on the falls.

This iris is too coarse for most garden plantings, but is admirable for the shores of ponds and streams, where its thick masses of roots bind the soil tightly and prevent its washing away. If grown in gardens the flower stalks should be cut when the last flower fades, to prevent the formation of seeds, which if left to ripen sow themselves and become a weedlike nuisance.

(Extracted from GARDEN IRISES, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1406, written by B. Y. Morrison, issued January 1926.)

IRIS IN 1926

The following is extracted from GARDEN IRISES, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1406, USDA, written by B. Y. Morrison and issued in January 1926. Do you recognize any of the irises listed?

In choosing, it is well to remember that many of the pleasant refinements of tint and marking are lost in distinct views or may even become detrimental. For example, the variety ELDORADO, which shows an interesting blend of dull gold and heliotrope close at hand, is a rather more dull affair at a hundred yards, and PARISIANA, with its intricate veining and speckling of mauve on a white ground, appears as a dull-purple iris from a distance. Again, varieties like PRINCESS VICTORIA LOUISE, with luminous standards and dull falls, carry chiefly as a small lemon-tinted flower. For this reason clear-colored sorts, like all the pallida varieties in their shades of lavender, mauve, and Chinese violet, the clear-yellow FLAVESCENS, and some of the yellow variegatas, the sharp, clear bicolors, like PERFECTION and NINE WELLS, all appear to greater advantage in masses than the other sorts. If the designer wishes to vary the tint within each group, to grade his lavenders from the almost white varieties, like MOONSTONE or CELESTE, through all the intermediate steps to the dark purple of PARC DE NEUILLY, he adds greatly to the interest. The same sort of thing can be done in yellows, from the ivory white of PANCROFT to the deep yellow of MRS. NEUBRONNER, or in the so-called pinks, from the tinted white of WYOMISSING to the deep Chinese violets of CAPRICE or EDOUARD MICHEL or even on into the red purples of OPERA and ARCHEVEQUE.

**EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
IRIS SHOW**

Plans were finalized for an iris show when the membership met at the historic Colonial Inn in Hillsborough for its spring meeting on March 8, 1975.

The show will be held on Saturday, May 3, 1975, in the lobby of the Holt McPherson Student Center on the campus of High Point College, High Point, N.C. Glenn Grigg, Jr., of Raleigh will serve as General Chairman of the Show. For details on the show schedule, write Mrs. Susan Grigg, 4908 Auburn Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

A cordial invitation is hereby extended to all members of Region 4 to cut your stalks and show them with us in May !!

ATTENTION—REGION 4 HYBRIDIZERS!!!

The 1977 Region 4 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Eastern North Carolina Chapter with headquarters in Elon Collège, N.C. Make plans now to have two-year clumps of your recent introductions and selected seedlings on display by sending rhizomes this planting season to the guest iris chairman:

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT—MARCH 1975

NEW MEMBERS

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Robison, Jr.
3937 Hawthorn Road, Dunleggin, Ellicott City,
Maryland 21043

SOUTHERN W.VA.

Mrs. Robert M. Richardson
211 Mountain View Ave., Bluefield, West Virginia 24701

CHANGE IN ADDRESS

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Mrs. Robert Dasch, Rt. 2, Box 337-B, Deer Park Rd.,
Owings Mills, Md. 21117
Miss Valerie Dasch, Rt. 2, Box 337-B, Deer Park Rd.,
Owings Mills, Md. 21117

MARY-DEL

Mrs. James Curry, P.O. Box 63, Greensboro, Md. 21639

RICHMOND

Mr. George L. Hanson, 2603 W. Main St.,
Richmond, Va. 23220

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Parker, Jr., 24 Stoneridge Circle,
Durham, North Carolina 27705

CORRECTIONS

In the January 1975 Newscast, these two new members were listed for FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAPTER and are in the CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC CHAPTER:

Mrs. Brenda Fisher, Box 388-F, Huntingtown Rd.,
Huntingtown, Md. 20639

Mr. Francis Springer, Rt. 1, Rocky Ridge, Md. 21778

Helen Rucker

Membership Chairman, Region 4, A.I.S.

ROBIN QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

Mrs. Nelson O. Price

Robin Chairman, Region 4

Perhaps I should have used the word "optional" instead of "abolish" in my last Robin report for the region does have a Robin within its bounds. I was notified by Rev. Charles Jack that he is the Director of Robin 4 (Region 4), with a membership of eight members and five of them have been avid and active members for a period of ten years. It is natural that this Robin and its members were upset at my suggestion that we abolish Robins in the Region but how were we to know when no data was available pertaining to its being? At convention time we begged and pleaded for all members to come forward and help with our part of the convention but not one member let us know of their being or activities. We are glad to know we have this lone Robin and would welcome more news of others if they are in action.

To date, March 5 (my deadline for a report for NEWS-CAST), I have had one reply to the questionnaire and immediately placed her in Rev. Jack's Robin where she will be very happy with all of the "iris talk" and he welcomes Mrs. (Lola) Branham of Richmond to the flights. Her membership brings to our Region nine members including a director. All of the names and addresses have been sent to the National Regional Robin Program to be certain that he knows of the Robin and who is heading the flights.

In a recent letter from the National Chairman I would like to quote a part of his letter—"There is no question in my mind but that severe apathy covers the entire Robin Program, both Nationally and Regional. In fact, it seems we are suffering from a stage of rigor mortis. WHY? I do not know but drop-outs have occurred in plenty. A certain amount of this can normally be expected due to many conditions. Is there a lack of interest in Robins due to a lack of interest in growing irises? Are fewer people growing irises than they did three years ago? Have we had a falling off or a decrease of members in AIS? Are we getting so sophisticated that we find Robin letters boring? We used to like to hear from Mary, Bob, Pete and Harriet and what they were doing with their irises—are we fed up with this? Are we tired of discussing varieties, new and old? Are the hybridizers bringing out fewer and poorer varieties? Are we finally coming to believe that twenty-five dollars is too much for an iris? Are we getting

disgusted with receiving Robins spaced so far apart that they become almost meaningless?" In comparison to the number of Region 4 members, nine Robin members are indeed a low percentage of members participating in this program. I think that as a Region we should make the Robin (Regional) Program OPTIONAL, without a Chairman and allow any Robin in action to operate on its own for we cannot limp along on one leg and non-functioning chairmanships. The National Program is an entirely different setup and functions at all times as you will note through Flightlines in the Bulletin. The regional Robins are offsprings of the National Robins and should be made optional without Regional Board control.

It is not the intent of this chairmanship nor the Region to disrupt activity at any level and especially in our lone Robin. The Region's intent is to function and be responsible to our leaders and organization. As your chairman, I can only report my findings and make suggestions to our Board. I shall recommend to them that the regional Robin Program be made optional, allowing the Robins to operate on their own and as they see fit. I shall also recommend to them that the chairmanship of the Regional Robins be eliminated from the roster of officers. The decision will rest with the Board of Region 4. The membership of the Region versus the percentage of members participating in the Robins is at an all time low with no interest shown from any angle of our Region, except, our lone Robin that includes members from Virginia (3); West Virginia (2); North Carolina (3); Nebraska (1).

NOTICE FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS OF REGION 4

The following amendments are presented:

Article IV—Officers, Election, Duties

Section 2. Now reading “No officer except the Historian shall serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office.” Proposed change: to insert “the Treasurer”—to read: “No officers except the Treasurer and Historian shall serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office.”

Article VII—Committees

Section 2. Now reading “There shall be the following standing committees: Budget, Membership, Publicity, Auction, Test Gardens, Robins and Editor of the Regional publication **Newscast**.” Proposed change: to insert after “Publicity” the following—“and Public Relations, Youth, Judges Training” to read: “There shall be the following standing committees: Budget, Membership, Publicity and Public Relations, Youth, Judges Training, Auction Test Gardens, Robins and Editor of the Regional publication, **Newscast**.”

Article VIII—Finance

Section 2. Delete

This constitutes advance notice as stipulated by the Bylaws. It is subject to approval of the Region 4 Board before bringing to the body of the Annual May meeting.

Rena M. Crumpler

Ann Dasch

E. Roy Epperson

Helen M. Johnston, Parliamentarian

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

We're glad to meet you—even by long distance! We're Glenn and Susan Grigg of Raleigh, N.C., newly-appointed chairmen of the Youth Committee. Our wise R.V.P.'s, Dr. Lee and Dr. Epperson, realized that it would take TWO people to continue the outstanding work of Ann Dasch, who has given so generously her time, talents, and enthusiasm to the youth program in Region 4. Thank you, Mrs. Dasch! With such a strong beginning, how can we falter?

Our qualifications for Youth Chairmen are twofold: first, we LOVE iris—not just the TB's, but also medians, rebloomers, Siberians, Japanese, Spurias, native species, and bulbs. No other flower offers the infinite variety of color and form, plus the ease of cultivation, that the iris does. The second qualification is that we're surrounded by youth of our own — namely, David 13, George 11, Laura 9, and Sara 8. They've learned to play around, between, and among the iris beds in our small yard.

A few iris have been growing in our yard since 1966, but not until 1971 did we find good iris friends here in Raleigh, John and Evelyn Dughi, and Henry and Gracie Witherspoon, and join the AIS. Now every year there's more iris garden and less lawn!

Do make plans to attend the Regional Convention in Roanoke, May 16-17. We're so eager to meet all you YOU-MEMS (youth members) in person. If you missed the exciting National Convention in Roanoke in '74, this Regional is your opportunity to see some of the excellent gardens in the area and some of the newest iris introductions. We also hope to have a special YOU-MEMS gathering during the weekend. So save your money and return to Roanoke in '75!

THE FUTURE OF THE YOUTH PROGRAM IN REGION 4?

by Glenn Grigg, Jr., Co-chairman of Youth Committee

I know that it has been said many times that "the leaders of tomorrow are the youth of today"! Does it apply to the AIS, though? If so, then where are the youth in Region 4?

Our Region now has fewer than twenty youth members. Each year since 1972 has seen Region 4 slip farther behind in youth member recruiting. Obviously we need to attract youth and also new adult members.

To interest youth in the iris we must expose them to our favorite flowers. I would like to encourage all of you who normally make talks to garden clubs and civic groups during the year, to make an effort to talk to youth groups as often as you talk to adult groups. What groups should you consider? Grammar school children can be reached through the Scout organizations. For example, you could invite a local Girl or Boy Scout troop to visit your garden and give them a mini lesson on hybridizing. Many high schools now have courses in horticulture, and I am sure that the instructor would welcome you as a guest lecturer. Groups such as the 4-H would also be interested in iris. Many local garden clubs have junior clubs with boys and girls eager to learn about a beautiful, dependable flower like the iris. And start right at home by actively involving your own children or grandchildren in your AIS chapter; it can be a great family activity!

As I have read articles in the AIS BULLETIN written by some of the nationally known hybridizers, I have often noticed that they mentioned they started growing iris as teenagers. I am certain that the imagination of youth has led to the development of many new iris. So in addition to talking to youth, GIVE them some of your better inexpensive plants and be responsible for starting them on their way to a lifetime of pleasure and satisfaction by growing the flower we all love!

The future of the youth program depends on YOU!

AIS YOUTH VIEW from "Down Under"

by Debbie Beasley

It took four trips to the photographer, and still my passport picture had a spot on the chin. (It was either that or the one with the blotch on the forehead) We used the picture anyway, because I was going to Australia with the AIS tour group at the last minute and we didn't have any more time to waste on pictures.

Three weeks later, my grandmother (Mrs. Figge) and I were to board a plane leaving Friendship Airport at 4:30 pm for Chicago. At 2 o'clock, my grandmother was still working in the garden, and Friendship was over an hour away. At 2:30, my mother dragged my grandmother protesting, out of the garden and into the house to get dressed and shut her suitcases. By 3, my father was champing at the bit and saying that if we missed our plane he wasn't going to wait with us, but was going to leave us at the airport and go home. We rushed my grandmother out to the car with her shoes and stockings in her hand. We had gone four blocks when my grandmother said, "Do you have my Leica?" I didn't. We turned around and went back to get it. You can't go on an iris tour without a camera. At least not if you are my grandmother.

We met the tour group at San Francisco port that evening. In addition to Grandmother, I knew Mrs. Zurbrigg (our fearless leader), Mrs. Miller from Region 4, and Bee Warburton from when we lived in Region 1. I was the only junior in the group. Counting me, there were six of us from Region 4—more than from any other region.

We arrived in Sydney at 7 a.m. Sydney time, Wednesday, October 16, 1974, after a 19 hour flight, and had to wait in the hotel lobby, sitting around on our suitcases until people checked out of our rooms at noon. That night, I ate with several of their youth members. It was nice to meet some people my age there. They have to wear uniforms to school.

The next day we spent visiting gardens in the pouring rain. We didn't see many iris, but there were bird-of-paradise flowers, staghorn ferns, lemon trees, azaleas, papyrus, golden evergreen raspberries, and bananas. The only two iris I remember are TEA APRON and EVER AND EVER. When we returned to the hotel, jet lag caught up with us and we took a nap. At 11:45 I

woke up, and woke my grandmother. Since it was too late for dinner, we both went back to sleep. At 4 in the morning, we both woke up and were hungry. We ate some crackers and cheese left over from the airplane, and then Grandmother cut an apple in half with a haircurler, and we ate that. I ate my half with a spoon, because I can't eat appleskins with braces on my teeth. We couldn't get back to sleep, so we wrote letters, and I studied.

Friday, we took a morning tour of Sydney, and saw the big new opera house, and then took a ferry to the zoo. We saw a wombat nest, a brolga (an Australian crane), and a Jabira, the only native Australian stork. We were planning to go to the opera one evening, but Prince Charles was visiting Sydney too, and all the tickets were sold out.

Next day, at the iris show in the afternoon, single blooms were displayed in glass bottles instead of the whole stalk. What we call arrangements, they call "decoratives". The awards were huge rosettes about two feet long. Afterwards we had an informal tour of the outskirts of the city by the Sydney Iris Society man who brought us back to the hotel.

Sunday, we took a long, hot, exhausting, but picturesque trip to the city of Orange, and the Blue Mountains. We traveled on the Great Western Highway, which opened up the interior of Australia for settlement. We didn't get back to the hotel until late.

Monday, on the way to Canberra, we visited the Madorama sheep ranch. We saw the dogs herd sheep, (even sometimes running over their backs), sheep shearing, and had a barbeque lunch. I fed a kangaroo that was hopping around loose. A lady at the ranch told us to feed him Kleenex, so I did.

Canberra is the capitol of Australia and pronounced **Canbra**. Tuesday, we toured the city and saw Parliament, the War Memorial, the library, the Royal Botanical Garden, the embassies, the museums, and saw them making coins at the Mint, and took a cruise on Lake Burley Griffin in the rain. (On the cruise with us was a convention of Japanese dry-cleaners.) The lake is man-made, and named after the American architect who designed the city. We flew to Melbourne, just in time for the welcome dinner there.

The next day, we were too tired to get up for the iris tours. We went downtown for a little while, but Grandmother felt

sick, and we came home. That night I went to the judges seminar on garden judging.

Thursday morning we visited 3 gardens, and I took pictures of ECHO I, SKY DIVA, MULBERRY WINE, ROYAL GOLD, CELESTIAL GLORY, ALAN FESTIVAL, I. Ixea, and a Pacific Coast iris and Portea Cyncroides (an unusual shrub). We had a barbeque lunch at Dandenong Rangers, and saw some wild kookaburras (which are kingfishers). Then we visited the MacKenzie Wildlife Sanctuary. I petted the back of an emu. It kept moving away, and made a croaking noise deep in its throat. I tried feeding it Kleenex, but it didn't like it. We saw a lyre bird, with its tail down running around in circles scratching in the dirt. There were more kangaroos with joeys, an echidna (spiny anteater), a dingo, a tree kankaroo, cockatoos, and a platypus. The platypus, was shy and hid underneath a tree limb underwater in the platypussary. Bee (Warburton) hid outside so he couldn't see her, and after everyone left, he came out and swam around. Grandmother showed me some wooden boxes with dirt in them where she told me they raise worms to feed the platypus. She called it a worm farm.

Friday, I went on the tour, which included the garden of the National (Australian) Iris Society president, Alan Johnson. He had a seedling that everyone thought was better than STEPPING OUT. It was more purple. There was also a beautiful mother-in-law's chair cactus. I took pictures of CLIFFS OF DOVER, DANCER'S VEIL, MARTEL, JOLIE, REGAL RHYTHM, and BUTTERFLY BOY. They gave us hamburgers for lunch.

Saturday was the city tour of Melbourne. We saw the new Arts Center which had water-cooled glass windows to keep the glass at an even temperature so it wouldn't crack. Also, they don't have to wash the outside of the window. We also saw a neat gem cutting exhibit, and everyone but Grandmother bought a lot of opals. Grandmother said she was superstitious, and thought opals were bad luck unless they were your birthstone. That afternoon I went to the flower show. They had a fuchsia section, again displayed as single flowers, and various Australian plants in addition to iris. The stage was arranged with artificial grass and potted trees and shrubs and plants as though it were a yard. We had tea (dinner) at the show.

Sunday we flew to Adelaide, and at the Cole garden I took pictures of SEPTEMBER SONG, JADE, DONNA SHOEN,

BUTTERED POPCORN, and JILBY. The Coles had the center of their driveway planted with yellow poppies, but they don't have a car. Their garden was like a regular American iris convention garden more iris than other plants.

Monday, I stayed home and caught up on the homework I had to bring along. In the afternoon, we took a bus to Phillips Island. We saw wild koalas in trees at the Sanctuary on the way. Then we saw the Fairy Penguins. They go out to sea to eat every morning, and come back every evening, stuffed full of fish. They are so little (only a foot tall) and fat that they can't walk very well, and have to sort of swim, paddling themselves up with their flippers after they fall over. Phillips Island is about 100 miles from Melbourne. When we got back to the hotel, it was after midnight.

The next day we visited Como house, an old restored house from 1850 (which is old for Australia) with winding paths and a sundial in the garden. I enjoyed seeing the children's playroom and their old dolls and toys. We had lunch at the Botanical gardens, where we saw black swans, a rare wood pigeon, *Datura* (angel's trumpet—poisonous), and *Chameros* (dwarf fan palm). We had a chartered tram (trolley car) back to the hotel which had a poster advertising the iris show on the front. That evening, we flew to Christ Church, New Zealand.

In addition to visiting numerous gardens in Christ Church, we saw some iris needlepoint, and a painting of Archie Owens (the iris) in a shell frame. Archie Owens (the lady) was on the trip. We were also introduced to broadbeans, and Grandmother brought some seeds back to plant.

Thursday evening we flew to Rotorua. Friday, we toured the Thermal Reserves with hot springs of 212°; Rainbow Springs where the fish ate peanut butter; saw tikis and wood carvings at the Whakarewarewa Maori village, and watched a Maori demonstration of how they cook in the hot springs (in this case spinach). We saw the Silver Leaf Tree Fern, which is the New Zealand state tree, but the only kiwi we saw was stuffed. That night we saw the Maori dancing, including the canoe dance, which symbolizes the long trip from Polynesia that the Maoris made in canoes.

Saturday morning we boarded the bus for Tauranga. I toured the gardens with Grand Iles, a New Zealand Junior irisarian.

He hybridizes Siberians. We were given a booklet in memory of New Zealander Jean Stevens who hybridized PINNACLE, MOONLIGHT SONATA, and FOAMING SEAS. We spent the night at Auckland, overlooking the harbor. The most interesting thing about the next day's tour, for me, were the 4 day old baby racing pigeons.

That night we flew to Tahiti, crossing the International Date Line, and regained the day we lost on the way over and, therefore, had two Sundays. We arrived at 6 in the morning, (Nov. 3rd) and walked around and shopped and then took a nap. That night we attended a taraara, which is a Tahitian luau and it was very good. They cook in a pit. Afterwards the Tahitians demonstrated their version of the hula. Each dancer picked someone from the audience to teach, and much to my embarrassment, I was chosen. My grandmother was so surprised (fortunately) that she even forgot to take my picture. Afterwards, we asked a policeman to point out the Southern Cross.

The next day we visited Gauguin's house, the Botanical Gardens, and took a tour around part of the island to see Cook's Bay. Tuesday we took an early launch to Moorea. The trip took 4 hours. We were to have lunch at the Bali Hi Hotel, and fly back. We flew back in the BIG plane. If the boat had not already left, I don't think my grandmother would have gone. The big plane was a 14 seat Otter. The little plane had 9 seats including the pilot. The view of the reefs was fantastic.

Wednesday morning we left for Los Angeles, and we did not get back to Baltimore until Thursday evening. When I returned to school, I had to make a report to each class, including an illustrated slide lecture in science of the plants and animals that I saw and took pictures of. In spite of that, I'm glad my grandmother took me. We met a lot of nice people, Australians, New Zealanders, and Americans on the tour, and I will always remember them and the things and places I saw.

**A.I.S. NATIONAL CONVENTION —
SAN DIEGO, CALIF. WITH MEXICO OPTION
Margaret Zurbrigg, Tour Director**

While the thirty of us were traveling back to USA several asked about my working up a group rate to San Diego for the 1975 National Convention to save the members money and others from the eastern area asked about going into Mexico following the Convention for a few days enroute back east.

Final details have been worked out. Anyone wishing to fly in a group to San Diego should contact Margaret Zurbrigg, World Travel Service Inc., 30 W. Church Ave., Roanoke, Va. as soon as possible so space may be reserved. Also inform her whether you wish to return on Sunday to the east or wish to continue into Mexico for a few days. Arrangements will be made to take care of those who wish to fly directly back to the east and Margaret will be in charge of the group going into Mexico.

At the present time the cost of a round trip ticket from Washington, D.C. to San Diego is \$273.00 plus tax (group rate). You will make your own hotel reservations and registration for Convention as you have done in the past. The flight would leave from Dulles airport on Wednesday, April 23 in time for Welcome events and return Sunday following the convention.

For those wishing to fly into Mexico enroute back to Washington, the additional tour will be \$375. each based on rates in effect at the time of planning this tour. Rates as you know are subject to change. The following itinerary is for the Mexico Option.

Day 1 — SUNDAY — APRIL 27

Lv. San Diego for Guadalajara, Mexico.

Transfer to Hotel Camino Real

Welcome to Mexico Cocktail and Orientation Meeting

Dinner at hotel paid.

Day 2 — MONDAY — APRIL 28

Morning tour of Guadalajara to include home of the Mariachi Musicians Visiting Government Palace and Las Cabanas Orphanage; State Museum housing outstanding paintings; Degollado Theater begun during the reign of Maximilian. Glass factory; pottery works at San Pedro Tlaquaque.

Afternoon and Evening free to shop and do as you please.

Day 3 — TUESDAY — APRIL 29

Motor to Chapala Lake and Ajijic Village
Drive through picturesque Ajijic fishing village. Colony of serious artists located here. Visit studios and shops where embroidered clothes and hand-loomed textiles are made.

Day 4 — WEDNESDAY — APRIL 30

Today we fly to Mexico City
Transfer to Hotel Alameda overlooking Alameda Park.
Tour of the city in the afternoon, National Palace; Metropolitan Cathedral; Chapultepec Park and Castle, former home of Spanish Viceroy of Austrian Emperor Maximilian.
Afternoon and evening free

Day 5 — THURSDAY — MAY 1

Tour of Shrine of Guadalupe and Pyramids of Teotihuacan
Visitors are amazed at this shrine. One of Mexico's great sights is the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon.
Dinner at hotel.

Day 6 — FRIDAY — MAY 2

Leave Mexico City for drive to flowered city of Guernavaca where we visit 18th Century Cathedral and Cortez Palace.
Continue through the mountains to Taxco, picturesque hillside town with red-tiled roofs, small plazas and century old fountains. Taxco has been declared a National monument. Sightsee the city.
Overnight at hotel.

Day 7 — SATURDAY — MAY 3

Return to Mexico City, lunch enroute provided.
Rest of day to shop and pack for return trip to Washington.

Day 8 — SUNDAY — MAY 4

Fly to Washington, D. C.

Our San Diego friends are waiting to welcome the easterners with open arms. Let us not disappoint them. Then when you are so close to Mexico, why not spend a few days there enroute back east?

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