

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

REGION

4

NEWS
CAST

VOLUME 17

JANUARY, 1975

No. 1

DR. ANNE LEE
R.V.P. Region 4



MR. AND MRS. MAYNARD E. HARP
Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary — June 30, 1974



NEWSCAST

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Inactive

GREENBRIER CHAPTER
Inactive

RICHMOND CHAPTER
Inactive

EDITOR'S PAGE

All things come to him who stands and waits. You have been waiting for some time for this issue of NEWSCAST. There are several reasons for its lateness. First, the masthead has stated for several years that "NEWSCAST is published tri-annually in March, August and December." However, you have normally received it in April, September, and January. With this issue, by action of the Executive Board, the "NEWSCAST is published tri-annually in January, April and September." Therefore, you should receive this issue before the end of January. Second, efforts have been made to have the printing done in High Point, N.C., instead of Roanoke, but this has proved to be economically unfeasible. Less lead time would be required if the printing were done locally. Third, I have been so totally inundated with work this fall semester that I have not had time to get this material ready for publication. Fourth, many hours of typing have been necessary to get this material in form for the printers. We must have typed double-spaced copy and it comes in in all forms, but mostly single-spaced and sometimes hand-written! ! The sum total is a later-than-normal issue.

The NEWSCAST **must** be a publication of, by and for the members of Region 4! It would be most comforting to know that sufficient material would arrive in the mail from Region 4 irisarians to fill an issue **without** having to request, or beg, or browbeat someone into submitting an article. It does not have to be a long, learned dissertation on iris diseases or this or that!! How about just a few lines about **your** experiences in the growing and loving of the iris? No one could ask for a better issue than that. Won't YOU send your thoughts and experiences to me for the next and/or succeeding issues of NEWSCAST?

Roy

* * * * *

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSCAST

MARCH 8, 1975 !!!!!

RVP MESSAGE

As your incoming RVP I hope everyone of you will help me to make my term successful. I am following a very effective and beloved RVP in Bill Kelley. Bill never "made any waves." I doubt that I can accomplish this as well, but I will try. No Chief can do much if he has not an army of good Indians, so I hope you will prove to be a good bunch of Indians.

Region 4 has been put on display and very effectively, I must say, by putting on a superior National Convention, but let us not rest on these laurels. The National Convention has given us an extra bonus of bringing a vast number of new introductions in the Blue Ridge Chapter. Those of you who did not attend the National Convention, and I hope are regretting it, will have a second chance. Many of the Iris were allowed to remain there and therefore will be seen at the Regional May 16-17, 1975 in Roanoke.

The mainstay of an active Region are their new members. If your Chapters are not actively recruiting new members you will soon become stagnant. So do not let this happen. The more actively you partake in the affairs of your Chapter, and naturally the Region, the more pleasure you will enjoy in growing Iris. At all times I would like to hear about any ideas you may have.

Make plans if possible to go to the Convention in San Diego, or if you feel this is not feasible, surely you can manage the Regional in Roanoke.

Conventions are fun time, not only do you see lots of Iris, but you meet the hybridizers, the people who created the Iris you have enjoyed in your own and your friends' gardens.

Even though winter will soon draw a snowy blanket over your Iris beds, let's look forward to spring time and Iris time.

Anne Lee

MINUTES OF THE REGION 4 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

July 20, 1974 — Natural Bridge, Virginia

The Executive Board of Region 4 held a special meeting at Natural Bridge, Va., on July 20, 1974. The Acting RVP, Mr. Kelley, presided at the meeting, stating that its purpose was to take care of unfinished Regional and Convention business before Dr. Lee takes office as RVP in the fall. Reports, in general, will be held over until fall. Dr. Lee spoke briefly, saying that she would like to have the new By-Laws ready to publish by fall; she also read an interesting letter from a member of the group of visitors from Switzerland who were present at the National Convention.

The minutes of the spring meeting were read and accepted.

Mr. Kelley read a report from Mr. Brown, Treasurer, showing a balance of \$47.50 after paying for the mailing of the last NEWSCAST.

Mrs. Crumpler reported that Dr. Epperson had now become Editor of NEWSCAST and that Mrs. Rucker will be Membership Chairman. At latest count, Region 4 membership was 399.

Dr. Epperson reported minimal response to the Regional mail auction.

Mr. Kelley announced with regret the resignation of Mrs. Hoffmeister as Test Garden Chairman. Following a discussion of Regional test gardens and the difficulties of establishing them, a motion was made by Mrs. Crumpler, seconded by Dr. Epperson, that Francis Scott Key Chapter try to get seedlings from Region 4 hybridizers for the 1976 Regional Meeting and grow them in individual gardens under the hybridizers name and number. The motion was passed. Mr. Kelley suggested that such seedlings be well marked for what they are and that attention be called to the fact that they are eligible for HC (High Commendation).

The following business was transacted, with regard to the National Convention:

- (1) It was moved, properly seconded, and unanimously passed that the General Chairman of the Convention be instructed to prepare and submit to the Acting RVP by August 15 a

complete report of all convention activities and financial transactions as of August 1, and that all convention funds be transferred to the Regional Treasury.

- (2) It was moved, seconded, and carried that convention funds be transferred by August 1 to the Regional Treasury and that Mrs. Crumpler be reimbursed immediately for the extra expense of publication of the Convention issue of NEWS-CAST.
- (3) On motion of Dr. Zurbrigg, the Board resolved to praise Mr. Stephenson for his arduous and assiduous efforts in bringing the 1974 National A.I.S. Convention to such a point of success.
- (4) Dr. Epperson moved and the Board passed the following resolution:

To the members of the Blue Ridge Chapter go the thanks of the Region 4 Executive Board for their efforts and accomplishments in putting on the National Convention, and to all members of other chapters who worked so hard toward the success of the convention, their deep appreciation.

The meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on November 9, the location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Barr, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE REGION 4 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 9, 1974 — Roanoke, Va.

The Executive Board of Region 4 held its regular fall meeting on November 9, 1974, in the Continental Room of the Hotel Patrick Henry in Roanoke, Va., with Acting RVP Kelley, presiding, and E. Roy Epperson as Acting Secretary. The meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m.

RVP Kelley reported briefly on the state of the region relative to membership and activities. He then read letters or

related communications with several of the outgoing and incoming Board members who could not be present for this meeting.

The minutes of the special meeting of the Board of July 20, 1974, were read and approved. The outgoing treasurer, B. J. Brown made a full report and indicated a net balance of \$2861.76 to be transferred to the incoming treasurer, S. M. Owens. Dr. Zurbrigg moved, Mrs. Frances Brown seconded, and it was passed that these regional funds be transmitted to Mr. Owens by Registered mail.

Dr. Epperson, Editor of NEWSCAST, discussed the feasibility of changing the location of the printing and mailing of the NEWSCAST from Roanoke to High Point, N. C., to facilitate its publication. It was agreed to do this if feasible. It was also agreed to change the publication times to January, April and September.

Committee Reports were received from: Membership, Auctions and Awards, Robins, Median Irises, Reblooming Irises, Exhibitions, and Photography. These reports will be published in the January issue of NEWSCAST. Judges' Training, Youth, and Pathology are vacant. It was agreed to dissolve the ad hoc committee appointed November 13, 1973, to define the duties and responsibilities of the various committees. Reports were received from several Chapter Chairmen.

Acting RVP Kelley in his closing remarks stated that he was placing in the official files a complete file of all correspondence between Mr. Fred Stephenson, General Chairman of the 1974 National A.I.S. Convention and himself. He then installed the incoming officers who received a rising vote of confidence. Acting RVP Kelley then relinquished the chair to Dr. Anne Lee, RVP 1975.

After distributing a new agenda, RVP Lee made some introductory remarks summarized in her statement that "a good chief requires good Indians." She then appointed the following new Committee Chairmen: Budget, Dr. A. W. Rice; Judges' Training, Mrs. Eloise Nenon; Test Gardens, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoffmeister; Iris Landscaping, vacant; Youth, vacant; Iris Pathology, deleted. The appointment of Mrs. Rena Crumpler to the reactivated Publicity and Public Relations Committee was announced. Mrs. Nenon then gave an overview of plans for the Judges' Training committee. A full report will appear in the April issue of NEWSCAST.

Following the membership report of Mrs. Rucker, a discussion relative to the inactive Chapters, changes in membership, and possible reasons for these situations were discussed. Central W. Va., Greenbrier, and Richmond Chapters are considered to be inactive. Mr. Kelley suggested that one method to involve these "inactive" members would be to distribute a sale list of iris at auction time and give them the opportunity to purchase one or two of the newer varieties at quite reasonable prices. It was noted that the emphasis Society wide is away from the tall bearded and perhaps toward medians and reblooming irises.

After a short break for refreshments, Mrs. Crumpler gave a brief report of the Fall Board Meeting, A.I.S., held in Tulsa, Okla. She reported that: Dr. Lee was confirmed as RVP, Region 4; Mrs. Rena Crumpler had been appointed national Exhibition Chairman replacing Dr. Cosgrove; Dr. D. C. Nearpass is now national Slides Chairman; and that committees had been established for revision of GARDEN IRISES, and that she had been asked to edit the chapter on iris culture in the south-east.

Mrs. Crumpler then gave a preview of the plans for the 1975 Regional meeting to be held May 16-17, 1975, in Roanoke with the Hotel Patrick Henry as headquarters.

Mr. Kelley moved, Mrs. Crumpler seconded and it was approved to reestablish the ad hoc committee to prepare an organizational manual for the Executive Board with Dr. Epperson as committee chairman. The election of a Nomination Committee composed of B. J. Brown, Henry Purdy, Wm. D. Kelley, and Mrs. Blanche Rice, Chairperson, was accomplished. The revision of the By-Laws was discussed and it was pointed out that there are several points that need clarification.

Dr. Epperson moved, Mrs. Crumpler seconded and it was voted that unsold craft materials remaining from the 1974 National Convention would be auctioned at the Regional Auction in 1975 and that all other files pertaining to the Convention be held for six (6) months and then destroyed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Roy Epperson, Acting Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT (11/9/74)

Balance on hand 11/13/73 \$ 1,128.57

(Reg. Acct. \$980.83 ; Judges Training \$147.74)

RECEIVED:

1973

A. E. Schleifert—NEWSCAST \$ 3.00

1974

Earl Roberts—NEWSCAST	3.00	
Advertising in NEWSCAST (total)	79.00	
Mr. Carr—NEWSCAST	4.00	
Southern W. Va. Chapter	93.00	
Francis Scott Key Chapter (Reg. Auction)	22.00	
Blue Ridge Chapter (2 years)	646.71	
C & P Chapter	162.00	
Norfolk Chapter	100.00	
Marydel Chapter	75.00	1,187.71
		<hr/>
		\$ 2,316.28

DISBURSED:

Meeting Room—Fall Board '73	\$ 26.00
A.I.S. tapes (Membership and NEWSCAST)	9.15
Mrs. A. W. Rice — Mailing February NEWSCAST	51.99
Walters Printing—February NEWSCAST	341.12
Membership Committee expenses	19.73
Photographic Committee '72	25.00
Photographic Committee '73	25.00
April A.I.S. tape for NEWSCAST	3.10
Walters Printing—April NEWSCAST (Region's portion)	632.28

Mrs. Rice—Mailing August NEWSCAST	26.75	
Mrs. Rice—Mailing April NEWSCAST	36.70	
August A.I.S. tape for NEWSCAST	3.35	
Walters Printing—August NEWSCAST	308.36	
Mrs. Helen Rucker—		
Membership Committee expenses	12.83	1,521.36
		<u>\$ 794.92</u>

CONVENTION ACCOUNTING:

Net Proceeds from		
Convention Chairman	\$ 2,676.65	
Melrose Gardens—		
return of guest iris (postage)	5.00	
	<u>\$ 2,681.65</u>	

OTHER CONVENTION EXPENSES:

NEWSCASTs for registrants	\$ 1,000.00	
Guest Iris Chmn—		
Postage to return guests	29.28	
Mrs. H. Nenon—		
Misc. Convention expenses	121.84	1,151.12
Net Proceeds from		
1974 National Convention		<u>\$ 1,530.53</u>
		<u>\$ 2,325.45</u>
Net Proceeds from		
1974 Regional Auction and Mail Auction		<u>\$ 536.31</u>
Balance To Be Transferred To New Treasurer		<u>\$ 2,861.76</u>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Helen Rucker

The Membership Chairman, Region 4, has been handled by Mrs. Rena Crumpler until the August notices were received from Mr. Cliff Benson. At that time this Chairman assumed the duties of Membership. With Rena's help, we mailed 13 letters to new members; 5 letters to Chapter Chairmen concerning these members and 43 letters to non-renewals.

In the months since that time, I have listed 2 new members with letters to their Chapter Chairmen, 2 of the non-renewals have been reinstated and letters have been received from 5 others with their reasons for not renewing their membership.

NEW MEMBERS — REGION 4

Blue Ridge Chapter

Mrs. Cherry G. Locker, 6818 Northway Dr. Roanoke, Va. 24019
Mrs. Larry W. McCracken, Box 114, Goose Creek Rd.,
Bristol, Va. 24201
Mrs. O. L. Persinger, Rte. 2, Eagle Rock, Va. 24085

Richmond Chapter

Mr. H. Gwynne Tayloe, 3rd, Mount Airy, Warsaw, Va. 22572
C. and P. Chapter
Mrs. Bernard L. Berger, 8010 Hillcrest Dr., Manassas, Va. 22110
Mrs. Carl J. Fleps, 5841 Bermuda Court, McLean, Va. 22101
Miss Terry Kellerman, 3416 South Stafford St.,
Arlington, Va. 22206
Mrs. Kenneth R. Spraker, Rte. 2, Box 104,
Hagerstown, Md. 21740

Western North Carolina

Dr. Jay A. Buxton, 204 Prescot Drive, Salisbury, N. C. 28144
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Steele, 4900 Charmapeg Ave.,
Charlotte, N. C. 28211

Francis Scott Key Chapter

Miss Victoria R. Dorf, 841 Glen Allen Dr., Baltimore, Md. 21229
Mrs. Brenda Fischer, Box 388-F, Huntington Rd.,
Huntington, Md. 20639
Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Johnson, 1366 Deanwood Rd.,
Baltimore, Md. 21234

Dr. Frederick J. Ladd, 500 Worcester Rd., Towson, Md., 21204
Mr. John E. Pinkerton, Sr., 1909 Halethrope Ave.,
Baltimore, Md. 21227
Madora Skelton, 8 Arkla Court, Baltimore, Md. 21228
Mr. Francis Springer, Rte. 1, Rocky Ridge, Md. 21778
Mr. John C. Webster, Ladew Topiary Garden, Box 58,
Monkton, Md. 21111

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

F.S.K.: Mrs. Robert E. Dasch, Rte. 2, Box 337-B, Deer Park Rd.,
Owings Mills, Md. 21117

PHOTOGRAPHY REPORT

D. C. Nearpass, Chairman

During 1973, the Region 4 Photography chairman visited the Roanoke area and photographed many of the irises that were in bloom. Not all of the gardens to be on tour during the 1974 convention were visited, but with the help of other members of Region 4, two slide sets were sent to the A.I.S. Slides Chairman for Previews of Region 4 in '74.

The rumor has it that the success of the Previews has prompted the Region 15 to prepare a slide set for a Preview of 1975.

Articles were prepared for the Newscast and for the A.I.S. Bulletin.

The slides chairman also attended the Philadelphia Convention last year and sent in a set of slides of irises and gardens of the convention.

During the 1974 A.I.S. Convention in the Roanoke area, 9 rolls of color film were exposed and about 175 slides were sent to the A.I.S. Slides Chairman. The notices of these slides will appear in future A.I.S. Bulletins.

The slides chairman has become custodian of a collection of about 1000 iris slides taken by the late Judith McLeod. These will be sorted into collections. A set of the Popularity Poll of 1973 is nearly complete and will be made available to those who wish to pay mailing and handling costs. Perhaps collections of Dykes Medal Winners, Award of Merit Winners, etc., can be put together from these slides. As time permits these will be worked on.

·AUCTIONS AND AWARDS 1974

Roy Epperson, Chairman

AUCTIONS: At the Regional level, auctions were held at the Executive Board meeting held at Natural Bridge, Va., July 20, 1974, and by mail. These auction efforts grossed \$343.05 and \$232.95 respectively. The total net receipts were \$536.31. Notices of the mail auction were sent to each member of Region 4, yet only twelve (12) bids were received!!

At the Chapter level, auctions were held by six (6) Chapters and a rhizome sale by one (1). This indicates fund-raising activities by seven of the eight active Chapters.

AWARDS: The ADELAIDE AWARD and the CLAUDE AND NAOMI O'BRIEN BOWL were not voted in 1974 due to the National A.I.S. Convention being in Region 4. The recipient of the Region 4 Youth Achievement Award (the JEANNE AND NELSON PRICE BOWL) has not been determined for 1974.

REGIONAL ROBIN REPORT

Jeanne Price, Chairman

Eighty-three (83) people have been contacted by letter concerning the Regional Robin Program. I have had three replies with intent to join. Other replies have more or less stated they preferred the National Robin Program. My last attempt to gain members has been through this issue of the NEWSCAST in the form of a questionnaire, in hopes, that this method would bring in members. It is, of course, too early to evaluate this measure.

I would like to suggest that we abolish the region robin program and promote the National Program to one and all new members of our chapters and A.I.S. This would strengthen the National Program with the help of the chapters and regions encouraging new members to join at that level. I might add, the National Regional Robin Chairman. Mr. Howard Coleman, has encountered the same problems as I have with reasons as follows:

- a) Members want a wider scope than the regions, for many regions consist of one State only;

- b) Not interested or do not have the time;
- c) Members prefer more advanced groups and categories to select from;
- d) All attempts to create interest have been exhausted to date;
- e) The strength of the program is at the National level with Ms. Edelman as chairman. I suggest we support her chairmanship with any members who may be interested from our region and each of us make a special effort to guide all new members to the National level where they may be placed in Robins of their choice.

Before any decision is made by Region 4, I ask that no motion be entertained by the R.V.P. until the questionnaire is evaluated. If the questionnaire is a failure, then the Region should take action to abolish the Region 4 Robin Program.

MEDIAN REPORT

Rena Kizziar, Chairman

One of the primary aims of the Median Chairman should be to encourage median growing by those who are as yet unfamiliar with them. This has been an uphill fight. The dyed-in-the-wool tall bearded fanciers have in some cases reluctantly tried a few of the little ones, but it was a short-lived love. All efforts have been expended to stimulate interest by the non-iris growing public, to have them perhaps start with medians since perhaps their needs are simpler, requiring less transplanting, less space, etc. Bright, eye-catching varieties of dwarfs have been planted in the Norfolk Botanical Garden, and an effort made to see that they remained correctly labeled. The local median-growing gardens have been opened to the public during bloom season, with more than adequate advertising. A recent meeting, to which the public was invited, featured slides of medians from the collection of Keith Keppel. All of this has produced very little response.

One other avenue which might be tried is to display blooming dwarf varieties in some public place next year.

Although the response has been less than encouraging, we will continue our efforts to transfer our enthusiasm to others.

THE BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

cordially invites you

to

RETURN TO ROANOKE IN '75

for the

REGION 4, A.I.S. CONVENTION

Headquarters: PATRICK HENRY HOTEL in Downtown Roanoke

MAY 16 AND 17, 1975

Iris Week '75 will begin on Monday, May 12. The public will be invited to visit the 1974 A.I.S. National Convention tour gardens. Headquarters for this event will be The Roanoke Garden Center.

There will be a sale of irises for the benefit of the public at The Garden Center during the public tour.

The Region 4 Convention will start on Friday, May 16 with a Flower Show and Judges' Training.

A reception and an auction of fine irises will be held the evening of Friday, May 16.

The Roanoke gardens will be toured by bus on Saturday, May 17 with a Banquet on Saturday Night at the Hotel Patrick Henry.

Full particulars will appear in the April, 1975 NEWSCAST.

*START PLANNING NOW TO BE PART OF THIS
GALA EVENT.*

REBLOOMING IRIS

Lloyd Zurbrigg

The reblooming season in much of Region 4 was cut short on October 2 by an all-time record freeze. Areas which escaped this freeze have had good fall bloom. Since October 2 there has been lovely Indian Summer weather and many new stems began, but were usually stopped by later frosts or freezes. Exceptions the first week of November in our Avonbank Gardens were CHIMERA (IB) and TWICE BLESSED (SDB). There are still many stems appearing.

Here in Avonbank Gardens the rebloom began with our aril-med DEAD SEA SCROLLS and the siberian, VIOLET REPEAT. These come right after the TB season, during the spuria bloom season. The "regular" rebloom season began on July 21 with a truly beautiful stalk of LOVELY AGAIN. By August 1, there were six iris in bloom, including three different seedlings of NOW & LATER, which variety appeared on August 3. There were never less than six in bloom from then on. By the end of September, there were several dozen in bloom, so that all-told there were nearly 200 iris that had given summer or fall bloom.

It was heartening to have summer bloom on GRAND BAROQUE, and on the newer CROSS STITCH. The latter is a sure-fire early bloomer with a better showy flower than its reliable parent, DA CAPO. The earliness of rebloom is clearly passed on as a hereditary trait, as evidenced in the progeny of NOW & LATER as well as DA CAPO. A cross of GRAND BAROQUE and HALLOWEEN PARTY had yielded some very nice flowers, but rebloom was very, very late. I therefore crossed one of the best with DA CAPO and the resulting seedlings are among the best growers in the garden and gave better than 25% maiden bloom this summer and another 25% this fall.

Jeanne and Nelson Price were very proud of two stems of I DO in their JNLPRI Garden in September which exhibited spring-quality white blossoms. John and Pat Rutherford were pleasantly surprised the first week of November by a fine stalk of ALLEGIANCE. This is the first report I have received of rebloom on that Dykes Medal winner. Roy Epperson had a quality stalk of BLUE BARON.

This year some of Frank Jones' early-reblooming seedlings have been added to the Radford planting in the hope of getting

season-long bloom. Frank has achieved this for the past three or four years. The flower quality on these is not superior, but the valuable earliness of rebloom can be transmitted to superior progeny and get us closer to continuous bloom on our iris plants.

The flowers of highest quality have consistently appeared in October here, and it was thus very disappointing to lose them all to the freezes. However, no complaints to the weatherman! The perfect spring weather when the National Convention was here in May was sufficient boon. It was a great pleasure to be able to show rebloomers of the flower quality of JOLLY GOLIATH and VIOLET SUPREME, and remonant-derived iris of the beauty of form of BAROQUE PRELUDE and the controversial O MY GOODNESS. The remonant-bred seedlings of the latter won much attention from nationally-famous hybridizers for the unique colorations including blue beards on pastel flowers. Happily, Region 4 is at the forefront in the production and growing of cold-winter climate reblooming irises.

P.S.: A Judges' Training session was held in Radford the last week of September using live blooms as subjects. I enjoyed conducting this session, and the members participating seemed to share this.

CALL FOR SLIDES OR PICTURES

The Historical Committee of the American Iris Society, Mrs. C. E. McCaughey, Historian, is in need of pictures or slides of iris notables taken at the 1974 National Convention in Roanoke. Of especial interest are those of past-presidents, present officers, and the Directors, Rena Crumpler and Carol Ramsey. If you have any such slides or pictures would you please have a copy made and send to Roy Epperson, 1115 Delk Drive, High Point, N.C., a member of the Committee? The Committee does not have a budget so we are asking for your generosity. How about it??

REGION 4 SYMPOSIUM TABULATIONS

Varieties Receiving 10 or More Votes

CUP RACE	26	CAMELOT ROSE	14
STEPPING OUT	26	CHRISTMAS TIME	13
SHIPSHAPE	25	SON OF STAR	13
LORD BALTIMORE	23	WINTER OLYMPICS	12
DEBBY RAIRDON	17	LATIN LOVER	11
KILT LILT	17	MAY ROMANCE	11
BABBLING BROOK	16	BAYBERRY CANDLE	10
DUSKY DANCER	16	GALA MADRID	10
PINK TAFFETA	16	LADY OF LOUDOUN	10
CAROLINA GOLD	15	MATINATA	10
Of the Write-In Votes:		LOUDOUN LASSIE	9
		FAITH AS THIS	3

There were 4 others receiving 2 votes each and 38 write-ins receiving one vote each.

Only 37 ballots were received and counted. Twelve of these were family votes, so the total votes cast were 49.

This is considerably below average and was undoubtedly due to the fact that BULLETIN and ballot arrived after August 12, 1974. This date was extended to August 31, but there was no practical means of notifying the membership.

HIGHLIGHTS ON MY TRIP TO THE "TWO DOWN UNDER COUNTRIES"

Marge Parham

My trip to Australia, New Zealand and Tahiti will be long remembered by all who went. On Sunday, October 13, we all began the trek to San Francisco. The first leg of the trip began to be exciting when I reached the airport here in Greensboro-High Point, the plane was half an hour late. I knew I was to change in Chicago only having just about time to reach the other side of the airport. When the plane reached Chicago, this happened to be one of those days Chicago is noted for in the winter, no planes were landing, the fog was so dense on the ground no plane was safe. After three hours the fog was better, so all went well. I made new connections arriving in San Francisco around two a.m. I found I was the first to arrive as everyone was having a little misfortune in getting through Chicago. Next morning I was up by eight o'clock for the tour of San Francisco, visiting many interesting sites around the city. The Japanese Tea Gardens, the Mission Delores, one of the first missions built in the U.S. on the west coast, Chinatown, and Nob Hill, where one could view the whole city. We made many pictures of the city and San Francisco Bay.

Our plane was due to leave at 8 p.m. Monday, so we returned to the Hotel Hilton early, so we would be ready for an early departure to the airport for our trip to Australia. Arriving at the airport we soon met others arriving for the trip. thirty members and our leader Margaret Zurbrigg.

The trip was lovely, with stops in Honolulu and Nadi. We arrived in Sidney after eighteen hours flying time and we had crossed the International Dateline and gained a day. Arriving in Sidney, a bus was waiting to carry us to the Shore Motel. Some of the Australian members met us at the airport to welcome everyone. We saw large plantings of iris near the entrance to the airport put there to welcome us. They were in full bloom, so we felt at home.

A welcome dinner was given Wednesday in the ballroom for the U.S.A., also several members from New Zealand were present. Mr. Allen Johnson gave the welcome notes introducing Mr. Hubert Fisher, who gave our thanks and greetings from the A.I.S., Mrs. Sparrow, Mr. and Mrs. Donnell and the Johnsons who knew several of our members, having visited the

United States at iris times. Thursday we visited several gardens around Sidney. It was too early, for many of the iris were not in bloom. The flowers, especially the roses, were in full bloom. Never have I seen so many types or varieties of flowers blooming together. The climate there along with the soil, which is volcanic in nature, has to be the reason. Many fruits were growing along with the flowers everywhere. Friday, again visited many homes and places of interest around Sidney. Each garden was unique with many interesting flowers growing. Orchids grew along in the same gardens with the iris and amaryllis. Most all homes in Sidney and throughout Australia had some gardens well cared for in their special small spaces beside their homes. The public parks are all beautifully cared for by the people serving time for convictions in the courts. This is the type of service they must do while serving their sentences. They do not have anyone as an overseer. I did notice none were trying to escape.

Saturday was another day to remember. The Australian Iris people put on a show in St. John's Church Hall. The flowers again, I must confess, were astonishing as to varieties, plus size, and here many pictures were taken. A box lunch was served to our group with the show closing at six o'clock.

Sunday we were out early for a trip to Orange and the Blue Mountains. The countryside was beautiful with many cattle grazing and sheep everywhere. Australia also grows many fruits—pears, cherries, apples, oranges, lemons, and more trees dotting the country. It was spring and the trees were all in bloom. Lunch was served at the Retired Service Center with Mr. Tom Williams being our host.

Monday we were off again, by motorcoach this time for Canberra, the capital of Australia. Canberra has many interesting scenes, including seeing the different embassies of all the nations on the Embassy Circle Road. All are traditional in landscape. The United States Embassy had dogwood trees with roses in the plot facing the street. The afternoon trip included a cruise on the Griffin Lake and dinner served on the boat. We visited the Mint and the Parliament House, also the Remembrance Hall where those who served in the war are honored.

Leaving Canberra in the afternoon by plane we arrived in Melbourne where we were escorted to the Chevon Hotel by Mrs. Caldwell, our host while we were in Melbourne. Again not too many iris were in bloom. Many species were grown in

the gardens. Here we met the Donnells again and visited their garden. Some gardens had a few seedlings that were good enough to remember. A few of the highlights of the gardens visited were these iris seen most often: WINTER OLYMPICS, LAURIE, WEDDING VOW, MULBERRY WINE, ONE DESIRE, CHERUB CHOIR, STEPPING OUT and many seedlings from STEPPING OUT. I'm sure it was beautiful the following week in all gardens for there were many iris in bud. Mr. John Baldwin had the most iris in bloom. his garden was most outstanding. Mr. and Mrs. Barry Blyth had several species of iris in the garden, but they raise canaries as a hobby so they stole the show for several of the members including me. They were in all stages, with some just hatched others only a few hours old. Wonderful experience! On to visit other gardens for the afternoon. Next day we visited the Sir Colin McKenzie Wild Life Sanctuary. Here many wild birds and animals were seen. Many hours could be spent here without being the least fatigued. Only one hopes they can come again to this place. The dinner was also delightful, in the form of a cookout. Lamb was served here along with many side dishes. I have never tasted lamb before that could equal this meal. We also visited the mountain home of Mabel and Stan Lott. They have a little picturesque home in the high mountains. Many plants grown here with too many to try and list, it was very beautiful. Also several iris, azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons.

Saturday everyone was ready to visit the opal centers to see the opals cut. This was interesting. Australia is noted for its opals, I understand now. They are very lovely.

Monday and it was time to leave for the airport and New Zealand. Before leaving we visited the Como House for a final view of the iris planted here. The house and grounds were historical so this will be another chapter later. Arriving in Christchurch for a stop at the White Heron Travelodge, we visited many gardens the two days spent here. The weather was cold and the iris were only open in a few places. Many of the new iris were planted in the Thomas garden. Lunch was served in the home of Mr. R. L. Sparrow by the New Zealand Iris Circle. The people were so interesting one really didn't want to leave.

Thursday, October 31, we were up early for our trip to visit Tauranga and a few of the iris gardens. On to the airport for our flight to Rotorua. Here we were in the Hotel Rotorua

near the Maori Village and the Thermal Reserve. My window looked out over the whole Thermal Reserve. It was wonderful to see the many jet streams as the geysers shot in the air. Our visit also included a tour of the Village and that night a performance by the Maori people. The people gave us a look at their cultural and native habitat.

Next day, Saturday, November 2, we departed by motor-coach for Rainbow Trout Spring. Here one saw native birds and fish. The woods have many types of ferns never seen before, including the tree ferns. Most unusual, but will be long remembered. Continued trip to Auckland where we visited more iris people who made our visit so refreshing.

Late departure for the airport and the last part of our trip on to Tahiti. Papeete cannot be described—it is a beautiful paradise—the people too are beautiful and friendly. The whole island is a garden of tropical fruit including pineapples, coconut trees, bananas, oranges, tangerines, breadfruit, which is really a fruit and looks like white bread when peeled. Pineapples and coconuts are the exports from the island along with coffee.

Tuesday we visited the Island of Bali Hai or Moorea. This, too, was another beautiful island—a paradise if you wish to fish or just play in the sun and water. One would never leave this place if your home was here. It was so lovely. Everything ends, so on Tuesday, November 5, we departed for the airport and our trip back to the States. We arrived in Los Angeles around nine o'clock and then had a wait for another flight to carry us to San Francisco where we all parted for our many separate ways home.

FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

A garden reception was given June 30th in honor of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Maynard E. Harp. The reception was at Maywood, the home of Maynard and Retta. It was given by their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. J. Markwood Harp.

AIS members attending the anniversary reception included Bill and Claire Barr, Dick Connelly, Bob and Ann Dasch,

Rosalie Figge, Tom Ford, Jessie Roth Frederick, Bob and Sue MacKenzie, Owings and Doris Rebert, and Al and Louise Thimsen, the last couple coming from Richmond.

Bill Barr was the official photographer, obtaining many candid and posed pictures of the eighty-one persons present. Bill's pictures are both Polaroid and slides. Claire Barr and Jessie Ross Frederick were assistants to the hostess.

The icing on a cake baked by a Harp granddaughter was in the form of an Iris. Gifts included GOLDEN YEARS (Hall), GOLDEN CHAIN (Schreiner), a gift certificate with a nationally known Iris breeder, and a gold dish with an Iris bloom etched in the center.

In 1967 Retta and Maynard originated the idea of a separate AIS Chapter for north central Maryland and obtained authorization from the Region 4 Board to form the Francis Scott Key Chapter. Maynard was elected as the first Chairman of the Chapter and was Chairman of the 1969 Regional Convention at Towson, Maryland. Subsequently he became Regional Vice President and is now a past RVP.

A former Regional Vice President, Mr. Frank C. Sherrill had appointed Retta as Regional Membership Chairman. It was while she held that office that Region 4, for the first time, attained more than five hundred members, and reached second place in membership among all twenty-four Regions. The membership record while she was Membership Chairman remains an all time high for Region 4.

1976 REGIONAL CONVENTION

Ann Dasch

The Francis Scott Key Chapter Board has discussed plans for the '76 Convention and the following have been appointed: General Chairman, Mrs. Robert Dasch; Guest Irises, Mr. and Mrs. J. Owings Rebert; Hospitality, Mrs. Maynard Harp; Reservations, Mrs. William Barr; Registrar, Mr. William Barr; Transportation, Mrs. Fred Miller. Additional chairmen will be announced later.

Convention tours will feature the Barr, Figge, Harp, Miller and Rebert gardens. Judges' Training class and a side trip are

scheduled for Harvey Ladew's Topiary Gardens 'Pleasant Valley'—a unique garden of national stature, where iris beds are being updated by the FSK Chapter.

Room and banquet reservations have been scheduled at the Quality Court-Park Towson, site of the last Maryland convention. Site facilities have been enlarged and improved. Modest rates and the convenient location were responsible for its selection instead of the luxurious Hunt Valley Inn.

FSK is delighted to announce that Ben Hager of Melrose Gardens in Stockton, California has agreed to be convention speaker and to help with the Judges' Training class.

Our regional convention may seem distant, but the Francis Scott Key Chapter is already enthusiastically working to make 1976, the nation's 200th anniversary, a banner year for irises in Maryland.

SHAW FOUNTAIN DEDICATION

On September 27, 1974, the Shaw Fountain was dedicated on the campus of Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. The fountain is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Shaw of Raleigh. The following is excerpted from the October 1974 issue of the Meredith College alumni publication.

"Two magnolia trees frame the fountain. A circular walk surrounds the fountain with three walks going out from the circular walk in a radial pattern.

Kim Fountains of California and Henry C. Hammond, landscape architect of Raleigh, designed the fountain. Most of the flowers, including HENRY SHAW iris and MEREDITH HUES iris, were donated by Meredith alumna Mrs. Loleta Powell of Princeton.

Mrs. Powell has operated Powell's Gardens, a wholesale and retail nursery in Princeton for 20 years. She is recognized as a national authority in the breeding of iris and daylilies.

The MEREDITH HUES iris is one of Mrs. Powell's hybrids and contains the college colors, maroon and white. It

is registered with the American Iris Society and is considered an excellent breeding iris for its color combination.

Shore Juniper surrounds the flowers to give them a dark green frame. Different varieties of flowers were selected to have color around the fountain during the different seasons.

Daylilies will bloom in summer, mums will bloom in the fall, crocus in the spring, Botanica Tulips and daffodils in mid-spring, and iris in late spring."

A LETTER FROM OUR SWISS FRIENDS

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to Dr. Anne Lee by Helen and Elizabeth Mooser of Zurich after their return home from the United States and the National A.I.S. Convention in Roanoke.

Dear Dr. Lee:

Saturday evening May 18th, after the banquet we did not see you again and could not say goodby and thank you for all you had done for the Swiss group. Therefore, my sister and I wish to thank you in writing for your guidance and your friendly help. We all enjoyed our stay in Virginia immensely and shall always remember with greatest pleasure the five days we spent in Roanoke.

We liked Williamsburg and Jamestown very much, too. Washington is a really beautiful town. We had such lovely weather there and less hot than in Roanoke. Some of us paid a visit to the National Gallery and were amazed what an enormous amount of finest European pictures have found their way to America. The same, we thought, when we went to the Metropolitan in New York.

On the way to Washington we went to see Mr. Crossman's garden. He won the President's Cup for his LOUDOUN LASSIE. It is one of the loveliest places we have seen.

We were enthused about Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. It's the type which is most like an English garden.

In New Jersey we had much rain for the visit to Presby Memorial Garden at Upper Montclair. The lady who is the

head of it, Mrs. Walters (over 90 years old) gave us lunch in her pretty home. Thursday evening the same day we left New York and arrived safely in Switzerland after an eight hour flight.

We have been very happy in America and would like to return another time. People have been so friendly and charming.

We hope that you are well and wish to thank you once more for the trouble you had with us.

Kindest Regards

Helen and Elizabeth Mooser

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED IN 1974

Hooker Nichols

The 1974 bloom season brought some surprises to all of us. Here are the top SDB's that I saw in bloom this past spring. GINGERBREAD MAN (B. Jones '69) was my favorite with chestnut brown flowers with chocolate undertones accented with blue beards. One of the few SDB's that gets more beautiful as the years roll by. AMAZON PRINCESS (Nichols '73) was superb everywhere she bloomed. The lovely ruffled lemon colored flowers with that red ray pattern surrounding the orange and white beard seemed to grab you as you went by. BLUE POOLS (B. Jones '73) was most striking in a clump. The light blue-white flowers with a deep medium blue spot merited a lot of attention in the display garden. OLIVER (Nichols '74) stopped the garden visitors with cream colored flowers with a bright brown-maroon ray around the orange and white beard. MELON HONEY (E. Roberts '73) was the newest color that we saw. The lovely light cantalope colored flowers with a deeper spot around the white beard brought a lot of attention to this little princess. TOY CHEST (O. Brown '73) came as a pleasant surprise. The antique gold flowers with neat blue beards stood out in the garden. Very nice. CANTON JEWEL (G. Galer '74) stunned the visitors with deep purple flowers with a pink undertone and an almost black

beard. Quite different and lovely. The open standards showed the beautiful center of this striking iris. BABY BARON (Torkelson '72) is the nearest thing to a miniature BABBLING BROOK that we have in this class of iris. Very lovely. CANARY ISLE (Hamblen '72) bloomed all over the place with yellow flowers with a deeper spot graced with blue beards. Tops in this one. HOORAY (Gatty '72) still gets attention with butterscotch flowers with a bright mustard patch on the falls. The flowers were very ruffled. STOCKHOLM (Warburton '72) is the best light yellow with a blue beard that we have. The flowers have a lovely rounded form. KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS (B. Jones '71) is a chartreuse yellow self with fuzzy blue beards. One of the greenest things that we have today. RANGERETTE (Hamblen '71) is still the best red tones iris that we have in the SDB class. COTTON BLOSSOM (B. Jones '70) usually is a white iris but this year showed a lot of yellow due to the weather. The flower form is fantastic. WOW (A. Brown '70) stood at attention with canary yellow standards, falls maroon with a canary border. A stunning iris in a clump. PUPPET (Hager '69) is a steel blue self with a maroon haft. One of the finest iris that the people bloomed this year. RUFFLED SPRITE (A. Brown '69) is a ruffled white with a touch of chartreuse at the haft. Very fine. TOMINGO (E. Roberts '69) was a gallant prince with deep wine red tailored flowers with a matching beard. This prince held up well in the sun. ANGEL MUSIC (A. Brown '68) is probably one of the most overlooked SDB's that I bloomed. The lovely orchid-lavender flowers were stately. The form was outstanding. These were but a few of the lovely SDB iris that I saw and bloomed this past spring. I hope that more people will grow these little charmers.

IN MEMORIAM
MRS. GEORGE C. SWEM, Sr.

Anna E. Swem, was a member of Region 4, A.I.S. for many years before she was fatally stricken this past September 14th, 1974. Although she became a charter member of the Francis Scott Key Chapter at time of its formation, she had been a previous member of Region 4.

Mrs. Swem maintained a garden which delighted many visitors. It included a border of TB Iris around the perimeter of her front lawn, interspersed with shrubbery. Her garden, at Dublin, in north central Maryland, always had some of the newer Iris cultivars among the numerous varieties. Some Region 4 members will remember her garden from the 1969 Regional as it was on that Convention tour. Her door yard garden, always beautiful, was never without other flora and trees to augment the Iris at bloom time, including columbine, clematis and boxwood.

Mrs. Swem's final effort was in her garden, from whence she was taken to the hospital. She was a loyal member of Francis Scott Key. Her friendship, and knowledge of the Iris, will be greatly missed. An album of pictures of her garden has been assembled by one of her sons and will be loaned for the September 23rd meeting of F. S. K.

Maynard E. Harp

NEWS OF THE CHAPTERS

NORFOLK

Anne Lee

The Norfolk Chapter Region 4, AIS, met on October 26, 1974, at the auditorium of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. A slide program showing the various types of Iris like Danfordiae and species through Dwarfs, TB, Louisiana and Spuria. A lovely selection of the newest introductions of TB of 1974 and coming introductions of 1975 was generously loaned to the group by Keith Keppel.

The meeting was called for our Chapter members and also represented a promotional effort. Flyers announcing the meeting were distributed at local garden centers, at the Botanical Garden Information Desk, at the Federation of Garden Clubs, and by various members. A nice announcement was published in the Bulletin of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Sorry to say all efforts were very disappointing.

MARYDEL

Richard L. Kleen

As the winter approaches, the Marydel Chapter looks forward to a productive year. Our program for 1974-75 is an attempt to accomplish three goals: to inform, to entertain and to involve. Our programs will include a showing of members slides, a fun and games Christmas program and slide presentation and discussion of Louisiana Iris.

When the month of May arrives, the twenty members of the Chapter along with all Region 4 irisarians, will be especially busy. We start off the month with the second of our median iris displays, an event which promises to be an annual affair. On the 15th of the month we reach the feature of our year—the annual Iris Show to be held at the Easton Fire House. In the past this has been the only judged show in our Region. It involves a lot of work, but gives great pleasure and satisfaction.

On May 18, we are trying something new for the Chapter—a progressive iris brunch. The members will tour the iris gardens of Talbot County hoping to satisfy both their ocular and gastronomic appetites.

Our last two events are a picnic to be held on June 13 and our annual auction on August 9. In 1974 the auction was very successful and we were able to contribute \$75 to the Regional treasury. This year we hope to go onward and upward.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Claire Barr

Local garden visiting the last weekend in May was very pleasant for those FSK members who were able to participate. It is hoped that this can be repeated next year with more gardens and more viewers.

The FSK auction was held on July 13 at the home of the Barrs. Afterward, the Chapter was able to donate many varieties for planting at the Harvey Ladew Topiary Garden at Monkton. This magnificent garden is becoming known nationally as a showplace.

There was much activity later in the summer among those members whose gardens will be on tour for the 1976 Regional Meeting. Doris and Owings Rebert, Guest Iris Chairmen for that event, were kept busy distributing guest rhizomes for planting. Ann Dasch is General Chairman.

FSK Chapter lost a good friend in September—Mrs. George Swem of Dublin. Regional members who attended the 1969 meeting here may remember visiting her pretty garden.

The Chapter has several new members, all of whom we hope to see at our next chapter meeting in November. We are looking forward to having at that time reports and slides of the Australian and New Zealand Conventions presented by Alice Miller, Rosalie Figge and Debbie Beasley.

BLUE RIDGE
Mrs. A. W. Rice

Our Fall Meeting was held September 15, 1974, at the home of Mrs. J. E. Rucker for pot-luck dinner and Annual Meeting. Final reports were made on the 1974 Convention and members reported receiving letters praising the Convention as "one of the best." Mrs. Crumpler, Guest Iris Chairman reported that all Iris had been returned and distributed as requested by the hybridizers. This was a tremendous task and a job well done by our Chairman.

Plans are being made for the Region 4 Meeting to be held in Roanoke, May 17, 1975. Mrs. Crumpler will be Chairman with Mrs. James Trent Co-Chairman. The activities will include a Flower Show and tours and rhizome sale for the public.

The following officers were elected to serve in 1975:

Chairman: Mrs. John W. McCoy

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. J. E. Rucker

Secretary: Mrs. R. M. Johnston

Treasurer: Mrs. James Trent

The meeting concluded with members viewing a beautiful display of Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg's reblooming irises. On September 28, Dr. Zurbrigg conducted a Judges' Training Class in Radford, Va., for our members.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
Glenn Grigg

The fall meeting of the Chapter membership was held on Sunday afternoon, November 24, at the home of Mrs. Alice Bouldin in Elon College, N.C. There were twelve members to participate in a business meeting and fellowship and hear of the delightful trip to Australia and New Zealand of the A.I.S. members as personally related by Mrs. Marge Parham.

The treasurer reported that \$150.00 had been sent to the Regional Treasury to support the NEWSCAST. An invitation from RVP Dr. Anne Lee to the ENC Chapter to host the 1977 Region 4 Convention was presented, discussed and accepted without dissent. Dr. Roy Epperson was selected to be the General Chairman of the Convention. The membership also voted to conduct a Judges' Training session in the late winter or early spring and to mount an accredited show during the 1975 bloom season. The new year 1975 appears to be a working, profitable one for this Chapter.

ROBIN QUESTIONNAIRE

Region 4 has so much to offer it's members through the Robin Program that is not being taken advantage of. An education in irises, their varieties, culture, diseases and types are essentially necessary to the growers. The Robin Program offers all of these phases plus great friendship with others throughout the Region. Won't each of you who want to gain knowledge through the Robin flights fill out the following questionnaire and mail it back to me? By doing this it will give your chairman all of the data needed to place you in a group or flight that holds the same interests as yours.

A Robin flight means eight to ten members writing about their favorite phase of irises in letter form and the letters are routed in such a way that you will get the Robin according to your location. In the Region, the Robin will make it's appearance in your mail box about five or six times a year. It will carry a route sheet and when you have enclosed your letter it is sent to the next name on the sheet. There is only one rule to follow and that is do not allow the Robin to nest at your home longer than ten days. Your flight director always welcomes a postal card from the member when the flight leaves his or her home and the destination known.

Please check all of your interests so that you can best be placed with an interesting flight. Tear the page from the Newscast and mail it direct to me. Pretty please?

Mrs. Nelson O. Price, (Jeanne)
107 Wharton S. E.
Blacksburg, Va. 24060

ROBIN QUESTIONNAIRE

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Check The Types of Irises That You Are Interested In:

Medians _____ Siberians _____ TB's _____ Spuria _____

Reblooming _____ Japanese _____ Novelty _____ Native _____

Irises In General _____ Any Other? _____

Would you like to have a special guest such as a hybridizer fly
with us? _____ Would you like to become a flight

director? _____ Are you

interested in? Photography _____ Culture _____

Diseases _____ Pathology? _____ Hybridizing? _____

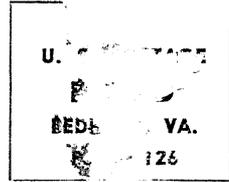
Judge's Training _____ Landscaping with Irises? _____

Iris arranging or Designs? _____ Are you a new Grower?

_____ Any interests other than above? _____

Please complete this Questionnaire, tear out this page and
return to:

Mrs. Nelson O. Price
107 Wharton S.E.
Blacksburg, Va. 24060



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