

# A.I.S. REGION 4 NEWSCAST

Corrected  
Page 18

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No. 3

Sept 1979

**NEWSCAST**

**Editor-in-Chief, Rena Crumpler**

**Associate Editor, Vacant**

**Mailing and Subscriptions, Kay Cooper  
(703-989-5438)**

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Marydel Chapter..... Paul Hoffmeister  
Southern W. Va. Chapter..... Mrs. S. M. Owens  
Western N. C. Chapter..... Frances Brown  
Eastern N. C. Chapter..... Glenn Grigg  
C. & P. Chapter..... Ellamay Hollis  
Francis Scott Key Chapter..... Vacant

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Paul Hoffmeister**

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Greenbrier Chapter.....Inactive

Richmond Chapter.....Inactive

EDITOR'S PAGE

This will be very short because setting up a new format for NEWSCAST entails considerable work. At the spring meeting, the Executive Board authorized, on a trial basis of three issues, the plan for economies I hope to effect in the printing of NEWSCAST. I am not able to give you the exact figures at this time but they will be reflected in the next Treasurer's report.

I hope you will find acceptable this issue of NEWSCAST. I shall appreciate comments from the membership on the changes.

## R. V. P.'s MESSAGE

At the Spring meeting of the Executive Board in Smithfield, N. C. on May 11, there were held very informative and thought-provoking discussions on several issues of importance to the Region membership. Although the minutes of this meeting are elsewhere in this issue, I want to bring some of these items to your attention.

First - It was decided that on a one-time experimental basis the Region will not hold an annual spring meeting in 1980! Instead, each Chapter and/or Affiliate is being urged to mount an exhibition and also encourage mini-tours of the gardens within the area. It was felt that the opportunity should be provided for each of us as growers of iris to be in our home gardens at peak bloom time and thereby more fully enjoy our own gardens. There is a great need in the Region for more exhibitions so that the Apprentice Judges can obtain the necessary training.

Second - The format of the NEWSCAST was discussed and a modified one approved. You are already aware of this action through the cover, etc., of this issue. The decision is primarily an economic one and it is our hope that this modified format will fully serve the interests of the Region membership at a lower cost. Rena Crumpler is to be commended for her efforts to make this possible.

Third - Due to an apparent revival of interest in a Regional Robin, the Board approved the re-instatement of the Robin program and I have appointed Ruby Buchanan of Winston-Salem to the Chairmanship of this program. If you are interested in participating in a Robin, please read Ruby's article elsewhere in this issue and communicate with her.

Fourth - In an effort to more fully coordinate the iris activities within the entire Region, I requested and received from the Board the support needed for me to actively recruit the North Carolina Iris Society, and Charlotte (NC) Iris Society, and the Carolina Mountain Iris Society. I have since learned of the Iris Garden Club (founded by Naomi O'Brien in Greensboro, NC) and the Garden Club of Luray (VA) whose club flower is the iris. The recruitment will be to become Affiliates of the AIS within Region 4. I will report to the Board at its fall meeting on progress in this area.

These are all very important actions of the Board and will be, we trust, to the long-range benefit of Region 4 and the AIS. Please communicate with me or with any other member of the Board with positive or negative comments concerning these actions!

Judges' Training is alive and well in Region 4! Most of our judges have attended at least one training session this year. Ann Dasch led a session in mid-February, most of the Region 4-ers who attended the National at Huntsville attended a session there, your RVP presented a session at the Smithfield meeting, and there was an additional opportunity with Ron Mullen in the FSK area this summer. At the Radford Fall meeting in October you will have the opportunity for judging credit in Remontants, Exhibition, and Medians. Assistant RVP Claire Barr has once again planned an excellent fall meeting. Our Judges' ranks have decreased by three this summer - Evelyn and John Dughi (NC) have resigned from AIS and Naomi O'Brien died in mid-May. There will probably be only one new Apprentice appointed for 1980 within Region 4.

At the Smithfield meeting, the Claude and Naomi O'Brien Bowl was voted to ATLANTIC RIPPLES introduced by Loleta Powell and the Bobby Lee Evans Award was voted to Seedling 79-10 of Mrs. Milton Ogburn. Both of these hybridizers are to be commended for their continuing efforts on tall bearded cultivars.

My last box of new iris arrived today and their planting will conclude the bearded plantings for this season. I am always glad to see the end of the summer work and immediately begin to visualize the spring garden at bloom time. I have not yet succumbed to remontants so I do not normally have any fall bloom. However, come to Radford the first week-end in October and you will see plenty of bloom in the Zurbrigg gardens!!! See you there!!

Roy

TO NAOMI (HESTER) O'BRIEN, "GOOD MORNING - ALSO"

Earl T. Browder

"Also" because it was nearly ten years ago I used the "Good Morning" greeting in writing the obituary of Claude C. O'Brien, the husband of Naomi. Not long before, a few of us were having lunch and Naomi declared "the Lord gave me the best husband any woman ever had when He had Claude ask me to be his wife". Remember when you told us that, Naomi? You were sitting beside Claude - and what did he do? His eyes twinkled as he smiled, gently laid his hand on your shoulder and said, "My poor wife, see how she gets her words tangled up?"

I wonder how many remember your words as we sat at The American Iris Society banquet table in Newark, N. J. and you smiled and said, "I knew Claude and I would be married the first time we met". You looked directly at him as you spoke. He slowly shook his head as he replied, "Naomi, you must have said those words a million times, and not one time have I taken exception to them--- nor will I ever".

Naomi (Hester) O'Brien was born in Elkin, N. C., June 30, 1894, and departed this life May 12, 1979. Her interests were many. After graduating from High School she went on to Salem Academy. Here she gave perhaps the most of her time to Music, Art and Secretarial work, though she also enjoyed the teaching of music. For her great energy these were not enough and whatever could be coaxed to grow out of the earth she tried. "For the beauty and the wonderful things they teach me", she explained. About this time Claude came along and then there was another interest, one that was to become the reigning interest of her life. On July 2, 1922, they were married.

Many of her interests Claude could at least partly understand from the beginning, but it took two years of earnestly trying to even begin to understand why anyone would get out in the hot sun and grow "weeds". His slowness in learning to grow flowers was more than overcome by the short time it took him to love them, particularly the iris.

Each year the two grew hundreds of seedlings. Her BREATH O'KILLARNEY is still the best green iris I have grown. I doubt that anyone knows the numbers of ribbons and cups and other awards she won for her growing and showing and speaking. (R.V.P.'s Note: Stalks of this cultivar were on the lectern at her funeral service)

Claude grew interested in the organizational aspects of the iris and soon the North Carolina Iris Society was formed, and it grew and it grew. A Regional Vice President for Region 4 of The American Iris Society was needed. Who was capable, and available? Claude O'Brien! And Naomi. And as always they worked so hard and so much that it was but a short time before Region 4 became the second largest Region in all Irisdom in the United States.

Both were charter members of the Vandalia Presbyterian Church and were active in the affairs of the Church to the point Naomi cried out in sheer hopefulness, "Claude O'Brien, the only thing left for us to do is to pray for at least eight more hours each day". To which he quietly replied "I 'spect if we really need them we will not need to ask. Let's sit and rest a spell".

We were often guests in their home. They shared seeds and seedlings. At birthdays and holidays here came surprise packages for us. Paintings, needlepoint, seed in an envelope marked "grow 'em and guess". And one glorious year a few days with them in the home of "Our daughter Nancy, her husband Lee Cox and their children Carla and Robin and Shawn in the Brushy Mountains of North Carolina." We will never, never forget.

It is hard to know such wonderful people as Claude and Naomi O'Brien, and have them go on before, With all the earnestness of our being we thank God for the blessing of knowing them and having them as our friends.

MINUTES-SPRING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING-REGION 4, AIS

May 11, 1979

The Executive Board of Region 4, AIS met at 5:30 PM at the Holiday Inn Motel, Smithfield, North Carolina, on May 11, with RVP Roy Epperson, presiding. This spring meeting was open to all members who were there and desired to attend. Ten board members were present.

The treasurer, Sam Owens, reported a total balance of \$1,169.11. This consists of \$235.56 in checking account and \$933.55, including \$133.62 interest in the savings account. The amount paid for printing the bylaws was \$39.42 and was taken from the Memorial Fund.

RVP Roy Epperson advised us as follows:

1. We have 195 members in Region 4. We are getting new members but total number decreasing. Still sending material to members who have dropped out in hopes they will renew membership. Six months is allowed for this by National. Region 4 allows more time. Will not order any new address tapes at this time.
2. Region 4 has had one judges' training session. Ann Dasch gave a session on February 4, 1979, on garden judging, mostly on awards and balloting.
3. Fifteen Region 4 members took judging courses at Huntsville.
4. Dr. Epperson will conduct judging course tomorrow on awards and balloting.

Budget - Al Rice - not here because of illness. Report postponed until fall meeting when he and Sam Owens will present a typical budget.

Median Iris - Jean M. Hoffmeister - Not here. Report sent in and is attached.

Reblooming Iris - Lloyd Zurbrigg - Report read by Roy and is attached. Lloyd expected later.

Exhibitions - Frances Brown - not present. Report read by B. J. and is attached.

Photography - Dr. D. C. Nearpass - not present.

Publicity and Public Relations - Rena Crumpler - report attached.

Auctions and Awards - Roy Epperson announced Claude and Naomi O'Brien Award for Judges' Choice and a new award, the Bobby Lee Evans Award, for the best unintroducted iris by a Region 4 hybridizer as voted by those in attendance at a Region 4 annual meeting.

Claire Barr gave a very detailed report on the National AIS convention at Huntsville.

Marydel Chapter - Paul L. Hoffmeister - Report attached.  
C & P Chapter - No report received.

E.N.C. - Report attached.

W.N.C. - Report attached.

Blue Ridge - Report attached.

Motion was made by Rena and seconded by B. J. that we reactivate the Robin program. Motion passed.

Roy Epperson advised us that he will appoint Ruby Buchanan of Winston-Salem, N. C. to be the new Robin Chairman.

Roy reported the death of Mrs. Charles Roberts (Gladys) of Norfolk. It has been suggested that the iris from her garden be given to Region 4 for whatever use we can make of them. Rena suggested that these iris be offered for use as a civic project for Norfolk. We agreed.

Rena gave a detailed report on the estimates and information she had gathered in regard to saving money on the printing of NEWSCAST.

Claire Barr moved that we have a one year trial run on a less expensive publication of NEWSCAST. Motion unanimously carried.

Roy advises us that Francis Scott Key Chapter is the only one of our Region 4 chapters to affiliate with AIS.

Motion was made by Claire Barr and seconded by B.J. Brown that Roy write to Carolina Mountain Iris Society, North Carolina Iris Society and Charlotte Iris Society suggesting they consider becoming affiliated with AIS. Motion passed.

The fall meeting of Region 4 will be held at the Tyler-Hotel Motel in Radford, Va. on Friday night, Oct. 5 and Saturday, Oct. 6. Individual notices will be sent to members. Kind of judges' training course to be decided later.

The members discussed the pros and cons and places for a 1980 spring meeting. Williamsburg, Va. was mentioned.

Rena moved that we have no spring meeting in 1980 but that strong efforts be made to select a date and place for a 1981 meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Celeste Cox, Secretary

May 12 - Dinner business meeting - The nominating committee chairman, Rosalie Figge, presented the slate of officers as follows:

Dr. Roy Epperson  
Claire Barr  
Celeste Cox  
Sam Owens

RVP  
Assistant RVP  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Motion made by Bill Barr and seconded by B.J. Brown, that the slate as presented be elected by acclamation. Motion passed.

B. J. presented the awards which were voted on today.

Best seedling - #7910 - Mrs. Milton Ogburn - Bobby Lee Evans Award. Claude and Naomi O'Brien Award to Loleta Powell for ATLANTIC RIPPLES.

Celeste Cox, Secretary

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## REGION 4 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

from October 4, 1978 to May 5, 1979

Balance from last treasurer's report \$1,639.28

### RECEIVED:

10/13/78	Book Auction at Radford	164.80
10/13/78	Pre-Registration Fall Meeting	90.00
10/13/78	Marydel Chapter 1978 Contribution	150.00
4/4/79	Deposit from saving account	<u>400.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIVED: \$ 804.80

### DISBURSED:

10/7/78	Tyler Motor Hotel-Meeting Room	33.28
3/6/79	Mailing permit for 1979	40.00
3/6/79	Printing of Bylaws	39.42
3/19/79	Mrs. Kay Cooper Postage Jan. NEWSCAST	24.78
3/19/79	Walters Printing Co. Jan. NEWSCAST	365.04
4/4/79	A.I.S. Tapes for NEWSCAST	6.35
4/4/79	Mrs. Kay Cooper-Postage April NEWSCAST	25.71
4/4/79	Walters Printing Co.-April NEWSCAST	<u>405.60</u>

TOTAL DISBURSED: \$ 940.18

Balance in Checking Account 235.56

Balance in Savings Account which included  
interest of \$133.62 933.55

TOTAL BALANCE \$1,169.11

\$45.58 Reserved for Memorial Fund

Sam Owens, Treasurer

## PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

On the premise that NEWSCAST is our best publicity and public relations media, NEWSCAST is being mailed to about 40 well known and influential people throughout A.I.S. Many of these are hybridizers who appear to appreciate receiving it. There has been a change in many of the editorships of other regional publications so at the moment there is a breakdown in communications among editors but I am hoping to make contact shortly. Although RVPs receive regional newsletters, they are seldom passed on to editors who are really the only ones to make much use of them. Therefore, it is preferable for the editors to keep in contact with each other. This also helps with solving problems common to editors in all the regions.

Because of the difficulty encountered by our hybridizers in having their work seen by judges and by people in other regions, your chairman continues to send varieties by Region 4 hybridizers (always with permission) to other prominent hybridizers and influential people throughout the country. I also continue to grow seedlings and new introductions of our Region 4 and other hybridizers and try to notify available judges when they are in bloom. I consider this not only as part of my duty in publicity and public relations for the region but also my duty as a judge and the duty of any other judge or member who has a garden on display. This does not mean that pressure is put on judges to vote for any certain variety but it does mean that it is their duty to see, if possible, any iris eligible for a vote.

We always have problems with newspapers and magazine articles. Such articles are often easier to get into small town newspapers. I feel that many things get good publicity and it isn't reported to the region. The Maryland papers seem receptive to articles and the Harps have had several nice write-ups about their garden. Also Marydel shows get good coverage.

I would like to encourage our members to send copies of publicity to me. Some may even be suitable for NEWSCAST, although they are often simplified for the consumption of the public.

Rena Crumpler, Chairman

## MEDIAN REPORT

Home from A.I.S. Convention after five hours spent at Atlanta airport after Southern Airlines late flight caused us to miss connections for Washington. A long and ghastly experience. Home to find some SDB's still in bloom after peaking while we were away. The intermediates are opening shorter than normal after last year's transplanting but still eye-catching. Unfortunately, we didn't see any medians of worth at the Convention as the TB season was at its height. I contacted Bee Warburton early this year, begging an article on SDBs which wasn't too erudite for us average medianites. I also wrote an article on medians for the beginner, hoping to interest those members of Region 4 who do not grow medians now. Both articles appeared in the April NEWSCAST.

Jean M. Hoffmeister, Median Chairman

## EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

I know of only two shows that are being held within this Region this season:

Region 4 and Charlotte Iris Society - at Charlotte-town Mall in Charlotte, North Carolina. I am happy to report a gain of 10 exhibitors in this show. We secured a number of local members who are good prospects as AIS members.

Easton, Maryland folks are planning a show and any details of this will have to be reported later.

I understand that there is a Mini-Show and display being held in the Asheville, N. C. Area. No official communication has been sent to me of time and place. Also, the folks in the Washington, D.C. area have done something similar to this in years past, but they have not sent a communication as to their intentions this season.

We do need to stimulate interest in this phase, and we feel that sufficient interest in irises is stimulated by these shows. It means work, and a little planning in advance, but the results should be evident.

Frances D. Brown, Chairman

## REBLOOMING IRIS REPORT

It was a pleasure to have Region 4 at Radford for the Annual Fall Meeting, and to have a reasonable number of iris in bloom for the occasion. Our meeting ended on Sunday, Oct. 8, and that very night we had a severe freeze, that killed all open flowers, and damaged quite a few buds. Five days later the iris were in action again, and remained blooming until November 26 when the next killing freeze occurred. Thus the iris season lasted almost five months, in addition to the regular spring season. We hope that Region 4 will want to come to Radford again this fall.

I have just returned from the National Convention in Huntsville, Alabama. One of the positive features for me was the listing of most of the reblooming iris as such by the letters RE in the Convention booklet. One of the finer iris seen was Mr. Burch's MULBERRY MIST, listed as a rebloomer; I had it second hand that the rebloom on it begins in August. The Phil Williams garden in Eagleville, Tennessee, specialized in rebloomers. In addition to a special bed there were representatives among the once-blooming iris, and these prejudiced eyes could only believe that they were holding up quite well in the comparisons. Most of the gardens had had much too much spring rainfall, and the rebloomers were consistently better in foliage and production in most of the gardens.

The meeting of the Reblooming Iris Society, conducted by your chairman, had standing room only. Members of the discussion panel were Dr. Currier McEwen, specialist in reblooming beardless iris; Virginia Matthews, noted grower of reblooming bearded iris; and Louise Smith of Region 4, grower of reblooming iris, and director of AIS Fragrance Robins.

Your chairman wishes you all a happy spring iris season.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Chairman

## BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

May 11, 1979

The Blue Ridge Chapter held a meeting at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Garden Center on April 8, 1979. Due to the death of Mrs. Ouida Persinger's husband our fall meeting was cancelled. Our officers are usually elected at this meeting, however the following officers were elected in April:

Mrs. J. H. Trent, Chapter Chairman  
Mrs. C. P. Stephenson, Sr., Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Paul Kabler, Treasurer  
Mrs. K. K. Cooper, Secretary

Our program was on "Little Irises". Mrs. Rena Crumpler gave us a short talk and held a question and answer period followed by a tour of the Crumpler garden.

The annual auction sale will be held at the Garden Center on July 7, 1979. A covered dish luncheon will be at noon followed by a short business meeting and auction to begin by 1:30. You may bid on iris by mail or join us for a fun day. At this meeting we will set a date for the fall meeting.

Mildred Trent, Chapter Chairman

## EASTERN N.C. CHAPTER

The fall meeting of the ENC Chapter was held at Alice Bouldin's home near Elon College on Nov. 11. Plans for the Regional Convention were discussed by General Chairman, Glenn Grigg. The Chapter noted with sadness the loss by death of Mrs. Theo Wall of Elon College.

A nominating committee (Roy Epperson, Marge Parham, and Glenn Grigg) was appointed to bring a slate of officers to the spring meeting.

On March 10 the chapter met in Reidsville at the home of J. D. Stadler. RVP Epperson reported on the fall meeting at Radford and emphasized the need to increase membership.

Plans for the Regional Convention were finalized.

The chapter auction was set for Saturday, June 23rd at the Eppersons.

Officers elected for the coming year were Polly Price, Chairman; Alice Bouldin, Vice Chairman; Susan Grigg, Secretary; and Gerry Davis, Treasurer.

Susan Grigg, Chapter Chairman

#### MARYDEL CHAPTER

This is being written on May 7, immediately after our return from the National A.I.S. Convention in Huntsville, where we found a total of about fifteen Region 4 members.

Marydel's October report, published in the January NEWSCAST covered all of our scheduled activities through the year. We have, however, finally set the date for our iris show in Easton for Sunday, May 20. It looks as if we will catch the season about right, so our chairperson Willa Owens, will be repaid for her efforts. However, we face a very tight activity schedule at the Easton Firehouse Auditorium which is forcing much simplification of some fine new ideas Willa had hoped to include.

Our April meeting was favored by member Dick Kleen with a detailed mythological history of "The Goddess Iris" which was well researched and presented. Our February meeting featured Dr. Nearpass' set of A.I.S. slides on "Iris in the Visual Arts", a different and excellent set of real interest. We recommend it for a program whenever you are tired of redundant pictures of new iris flowers.

So Marydel is busy now with its show, and looking forward to its annual picnic in June, and its iris sale on July 28.

Paul L. Hoffmeister, Chairman

#### WESTERN N.C. CHAPTER

In the Charlotte Area we are experiencing a new burst of interest in iris. We have had the help of a new local member (a good prospect for AIS), Nancy Brachey who is a writer of garden news for The Charlotte

Observer. An unusually good article, with color pictures by Katherine Steele, appeared in The Observer on Saturday, May 5th. Another enthusiastic young man, who is grounds administrator for Central Piedmont Community College, has joined our local club. Our local club furnished irises for a planting at this college. Bud Stokley became interested in our flower through this planting. He brought 3 exhibits to our show, and after only 1 session on selection and transporting irises to show, brought 3 blue ribbon winners - one of which received Best Of Show - PROUD HERITAGE.

We have added several new members in our Chapter during the year, and are hoping for continued interest and success in securing new members.

B. J. Brown, Chairman

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

#### MARYLAND

August, 1979

#### FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAPTER

##### New Members

Mrs. Doris Phipps, 208 Lincoln Ave., Lutherville, Md. 21093  
Mrs. Sally Piette, 204 Sunny King Dr, Reisterstown, Md. 21136  
Mrs. Joyce E. Smith, 5312 Forge Rd, White Marsh, Md. 21162  
Mr. Douglas Moore Whitehurst, 12409 Happy Hollow Rd.,  
Cockeysville, Md. 21030  
Mr/Mrs. Dennis A. Wilkie, 10130 Hyla Brook Rd.,  
Columbia, Md. 21044 (moved from Region 3)

##### Reinstated

Mrs. Victoria Dorf, 841 Glen Allen Dr. Baltimore, Md. 21229

##### Honorary Member F.S.K.

Mr. Harold F. Carr, Rt. 7, Box 530, Sykesville, Md. 21098 <sup>784</sup>

##### Delete from Membership

Mr. Harold F. Carr, Sykesville, Md. 21784  
Mr/Mrs. Richard B. Dow, Towson, Md. 21204  
Mrs. Ray M. Hanna, Ellicott City, Md. 21043  
Ms. Iris R. Majorowicz, Baltimore, Md. 21209  
Mrs. T. Garland Tinsley, Glyndon, Md. 21071  
Mrs. Richard A. Wilson, Baltimore, Md. 21207

#### MARY-DEL CHAPTER

##### New Members

Mrs. Millie Armin, Rt. 1, Box 87A, Grasonville, Md. 21638

*C.P.*  
Ms. Connie Hirschman, 316 G St. S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003  
Ms. M. Vivian Layman, 900 Devere Dr. Silver Spring, Md. 20903  
Mr. Brian Lazarus, 1786 Generals Highway,  
Annapolis, Md. 21401  
Mr. Merrill E. Shawe, 6405 Fairborn Terrace,  
New Carrollton, Md. 20784  
Mrs. Vivian E. Taylor, 131 Swiss Gap, Largo, Md. 20870  
Mr. Richard W. Vendler, 2605 Adams Mill Rd., N.W. Apt. 1,  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Delete from Membership

*C.P.*  
Mrs. H. E. Beresford, Chantilly, Va. 22021  
Mr/Mrs. Robert C. Hartman, Silver Spring, Md. 20904  
Mr/Mrs. William Hahn, Annapolis, Md. 21401  
Mrs. Frank Palik, Kensington, Md. 20795  
Mr. Kenneth Warsh, Laurel, Md. 20810  
Mr. Richard O. White, Hyattsville, Md. 20783

NORTH CAROLINA

EASTERN N.C. CHAPTER

New Members

*Mary Del*  
Mr. Wm. W. Davis, Rt. 2, Box 28, Reidsville, N.C. 27321  
Mrs. Thomas W. Holden, Rt. 2, Box 401, Yadkinville, N.C. 27055  
Mr/Mrs. W.E. Hull, 3670 Tech Ave. Winston-Salem, N.C. 27107  
Ms. Rita Loflin, Rt. 3, Box 768, Thomasville, N.C. 27360  
Mr. G.W. Lefever, 4536 Kernersville Rd,  
Kernersville, N. C. 27284

Mrs. T. E. Graves, Oak Point, Bozman, Md. 21612  
Mr/Mrs. H. Elberte Harrison, Rt. 1, Box 62,  
St. Michaels, Md. 21663

Mrs. A.J. Millard, 203 Green St., St. Michaels, Md. 21663  
Mrs. Mary E. Snow, P.O. Box 55, Royal Oak, Md. 21662  
Mrs. Catherine Starnes, Rt. 1, Box 84A, Grasonville, Md. 21638  
Mrs. Wm. H. Stevenson, III, Rt. 5, Box 532, Easton, Md. 21061  
Mrs. Anne T. Whiting, Rt. 1, Box 228, Greensboro, Md. 21639

Delete from Membership

Mrs. Edgar A. Bering, Oxford, Md. 21654  
Mrs. Edward J. Hillyer, Rock Hill, Md. 21661

CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC CHAPTER

New Members

Mr. Syd Butler, 2428 Tracy Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008  
Mrs. Lawrence D. Hanback, Jr. 605 S. Stewart St.  
Winchester, Va. 22601  
Mrs. Joan Herbert, P.O. Box 225, Hughesville, Md. 20637

Mr. Jack E. Lineback, Rt. 2, Box 269-L, Clayton, N.C. 27520  
Mr. E. M. Pendergraft, 4904 Garrett Rd, Durham, N.C. 27707

New Youth Members

Lisa Hull, 3670 Tech Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C., 27107  
Ray Hull, 3670 Tech Ave., Winston-Salem, N. C. 27107  
Evelyn Lineback, Rt. 2, Box 269-L, Clayton, N.C. 27520

Zip Correction

Mrs. N.E. Buchanan, 3666 Tech Ave,  
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27107

Change of Address

James D. Stadler, 1613 Country Club Rd,  
Reidsville, N. C. 27320

Deceased

Mrs. Claude C. O'Brien

Delete from Membership

Mr/Mrs. John Dughi, Raleigh, N. C. 27608  
Mrs. Elmer J. Nifong, Kernersville, N. C. 27284  
Mr. David H. Schreoder, Cary, N. C. 27511  
Mrs. Richard A. Shearer, Sanford, N. C. 27330  
Mr. Robbie Brooks, Roxboro, N.C. 27573 (YOUTH)

WESTERN N. C. CHAPTER

New Members

Mr/Mrs. H. S. Cowell, Jr., 4322 Columbine Circle,  
Charlotte, N. C. 28211  
Mrs. Wallace Jones, 3844 Sudbury Rd, Charlotte, N.C. 28205  
Mrs. Lavada Reese, P.O. Box 106, East Flat Rock, N.C. 28726  
Dr. Gary R. Whitaker, Oak Knoll Farm, Rt. 7,  
Fairview, N. C. 28730

Change of Address

Mr/Mrs. Richard D. Steele, 2121 Sedley Rd.,  
Charlotte, N. C. 28211

Delete from Membership

Mrs. E. R. Baxley, Rockingham, N. C. 28379  
Dr. Jay A. Buxton, Salisbury, N. C. 28144  
Mrs. Craven B. Helms, Monroe, N. C. 28110  
Mrs. Janis S. Pierce, Marshville, N. C. 28103  
Mrs. Louise D. Sellers, Wadesboro, N. C. 28170

VIRGINIA

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

Delete from Membership

Mrs. Jack Bowersox, Bedford, Va. 24523  
Mr/Mrs. Arthur E. Davis, Bassett, Va. 24055  
Mrs. Robert M. Easley, Roanoke, Va. 24019  
Mrs. Janie R. Hayden, Chatham, Va. 24531  
Mr/Mrs. Herbert H. Johnson, Glade Hill, Va. 24092  
Mrs. Larry McCracken, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Mr. Sammy Lucas, Christiansburg, Va. 24073 (YOUTH)  
Miss Julie Nenon, Chatham, Va. 24531 (YOUTH)

NORFOLK CHAPTER

New Members

Mr. Johnnie Burch, 4008 Thalia Dr.,  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

Delete from Membership

Mrs. Virginia Conrad, Norfolk, Va. 23503  
Mrs. William C. Hickman, Virginia Beach, Va. 23454

RICHMOND CHAPTER

New Members

Mr/Mrs M. B. Lowe, Box 125, Wilsons, Va. 23894

Delete from Membership

Mrs. Harry G. Shepherd, Fork Union, Va. 23055  
Mrs. T. A. Williams, Scottsville, Va. 24590  
Mr. Bobby Johnson, Midlothian, Va. 23113 (YOUTH)

WEST VIRGINIA

New Members

Mr. James C. Exline, Rt. 2, Berkeley Springs, W. Va. 25411  
Mr. Wm. R. Kuykendall, 105 Oakview Dr. Morgantown, W. Va. 26505  
Mrs. R. S. Little, 749 College Ave. Morgantown, W. Va. 26505  
Mr. Robert McDaniel, 1009 S. Raleigh St.,  
Martinsburg, W. Va. 25401

Delete from Membership

Mrs. Regina M. Fusan, Paw Paw, W. Va.  
Rev. Charles C. Jack, Alderson, W. Va. 24910  
Mr/Mrs. William C. Miller, St. Albans, W. Va. 25177  
Mrs. Robert M. Richardson, Bluefield, W. Va. 24701  
Mrs. Mary C. Sechman, Clarksburg, W. Va. 26301  
Mr. Charles U. Summers, Jr., Charleston, W. Va. 25302  
Mr/Mrs. Curtis Tolley, Elkview, W. Va. 25071  
Mr. Allen Wright, Nitro, W. Va. 25143

REGION 4 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

FALL MEETING --- OCTOBER 5-6, 1979

TYLER HOTEL-MOTEL, RADFORD, VIRGINIA

To all members of Region 4, with a special welcome to new members:

What could be nicer in the heat of the summer than to contemplate the lovely fall colors in Virginia combined with beautiful blooming irises in Juanita and Lloyd Zurbrigg's gardens? Add wonderful people and you have Region 4's Fall Meeting in Radford. Once again we will meet at the Tyler Hotel-Motel, where a block of rooms has been set aside. I urge you to reserve early and to state that you are with the American Iris Society group. This is most important, especially on a football weekend. There are other motels in the area, of course--The Executive Motel and Dogwood Lodge in Radford, and in nearby Christiansburg, Days Inn and EconoLodge. If you have problems, please call Lloyd Zurbrigg (703-639-1333) or me (301-486-5214).

Activities have been arranged so that there are three possibilities on Saturday for Judges' Training credit. All members are welcome at the open Executive Board Meeting and are urged to attend. The weekend is an informal get-together. All meals will be Dutch Treat. The hotel has a good dining room, and there are other good restaurants nearby.

---Make reservations directly with Tyler Hotel-Motel,  
P.O. Box 691, Radford, Va. 24141, Ph.703-639-3941.  
Attn: Mr. Geo. Groves.  
Hotel section - \$18 single, \$24 double.  
Motel section - \$22 single, \$30 double.

---Pre-registration fee: \$3.00. Make check payable to  
Region 4, A.I.S.  
Send to: Claire Barr, Stevenson, Maryland 21153

<u>Friday,</u>	6:00 pm	Dinner at Hotel
	8:00 pm	Colonial Room--get-together with slides of the Huntsville Convention and possibly of the Smithfield Regional Meeting.

Saturday, 8:45 am

Meet in lobby for carpool to gardens. Judges' Training credit on Rebloomers will be given for this session.

11:30-12:45 pm Lunch in group or on your own wherever desired.

1:00-3:00 pm Colonial Room--Simulated Show. Judges' Training credit for Apprentice Judges and Teachers only, but information and enlightenment for all.

(PLEASE BRING STALKS OF REBLOOMERS FROM YOUR OWN GARDEN IF YOU CAN, not for competition, but to add variety and interest to the show.)

3:30-5:30 pm Open Board Meeting, Colonial Room; all welcome.

6:00-7:30 pm Dinner--Hotel dining room or ???

8:00 pm Jean and Paul Hoffmeister will give a talk and slide show on Median Irises. We look forward to learning more about these smaller beauties. Judges' Training credit for this session, also.

Make your reservations, bring your rebloomers if you have any, and enjoy the weekend.

SEE YOU IN RADFORD OCTOBER 5-6 !!!

Claire Barr, Assistant RVP

## MULCHING

by

Nannie Paquet

During the winter of 1977 I had one bed of named irises and one bed of seedlings that heaved so bad there was no bloom in 1978 on them. So I decided that I would mulch all beds in 1978. I got eight bales of straw and on December 11 I started putting a heavy covering on all the beds. I couldn't do the whole job at once so I covered as many beds as I could each morning while the ground was frozen. It took three mornings to cover all beds.

When spring came 1979, I didn't know when I should take the mulch off so on March 13th I started taking it off of one bed. It rained and was so cold it was the 18th before I took off more straw. I was afraid I was taking it off too early, and it was March 30th when I got the last of the straw off. What a back aching job it was but the irises looked great, not a single one heaved out of the ground!

But, mulching didn't keep the buds from freezing so I had a lot of irises that didn't bloom. The ones that did bloom were perfectly beautiful. All flowers this year were larger than usual.

It rained so much I couldn't get spraying done, couldn't get the hoeing or fertilizing done before bloom stalks were way up so will have all that to do if it ever quits raining long enough for the land to dry off a little. At this writing (May 15th) it is cold enough for a fire to feel good and has rained so much you mire down if you step on the beds. Bloom is about gone, I remove bloom stalks as fast as they finish blooming so when the last flower is gone all stalks are gone.

Made no crosses this year, I found no pollen on the ones I wanted to use. When there is so much rain there seems to be no pollen.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Supplement)  
September, 1979

MARYLAND

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAPTER

New Members

Ms. Iris Rosenblit, 6959 Blanche Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21215

Corrections & Address Changes

Correction: Mrs. Jeannette Allender, 8454 Lock Raven Blvd.  
Change: Mrs. Francis Marbury, 917 Jamieson Rd.

Lutherville, Md. 21093

Change: Mrs. M.T. Galloway, 1909 Carrollton Rd. Finksburg, Md.  
21048

MARYDEL CHAPTER

New Members

Meade Windsor, Rt. #1, Box 185, Trappe, Md. 21673 (Youth)

C. and P. CHAPTER

New Members

Mr. William L. Ackerman, P.O. Box 41, Ashton, Md. 20702

Mrs. Arlene Allen, 9928 Brixton, Bethesda, Md. 20034

Ms. Beth J. Soldo, 411 11th St., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

Dr. Donald M. Spoon, Dept. Biology, G.U. Washington, D.C. 20057

Mr. Stanley Regal, Dublin Dept. of State, Washington, D.C.  
(Moved from Region 1) 20520

NORTH CAROLINA

WESTERN N.C.

New Members

Mr. John M. Blake, Rt. #3, Box 35A, Chadbourne, N.C. 28431

VIRGINIA

BLUE RIDGE

Mrs. Hunt Nenon (Change from Family Membership to Single)

WEST VIRGINIA

Address Change

Mr. Wm. R. Kuykendall, 1069 1/2 Charles Ave. Morgantown, W. Va.  
26505

## THOUGHTS FROM HUNTSVILLE

Claire Barr

The recipe for a good iris convention calls for a number of ingredients, of which two of the most important are people and irises. Beautiful weather adds a certain amount of flavor but is not essential. In the case of the Huntsville Convention, the sun outdid itself while the various meetings were going on indoors, and then it played hide-and-peek with us for the three tour days. That mattered not at all - we had irises to see, and there were lots of wonderful people there to walk through the gardens with us.

Arriving in Huntsville on Monday, Bill and I decided to visit the nearby Alabama Space and Rocket Center on Tuesday morning, taking with us in the car Rosalie Figge and three friends from Region 2, Jane Hall, Dr. Irvin Conroe and Clinton Ziems. The Space Center was something about which I had heard but which had not held great interest for me until I stepped through the doors and began to absorb some of the unbelievable information made available there. Convention goers who passed up the opportunity of seeing those huge rockets and their component parts, and of hearing about their development and their capabilities missed a rewarding experience.

The remainder of Tuesday and all of Wednesday were filled with meetings and greetings to and from old friends and new, a prelude to the three fun days of seeing beautiful blooms. There were many handsome irises to be seen in the tour gardens, but one in particular kept standing out and asking to be noticed. It was MT. COOK A'DAWNING (FOOTE '72) a luscious sunrise pink which completely captivated me, and many other people as well. Blooming alongside in several gardens, and impressive though not nearly so floriferous, was THE BLUE BOY ('72) by the same hybridizer. At the Christopher garden in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, I said to Rosalie Figge as I stood in the rain admiring these two irises, "Who is this hybridizer named Foote?" "I don't know," replied Rosalie, "but Mt. Cook is in New Zealand, so maybe he's a New Zealander." Just at that moment from beneath an umbrella on the other side of the flower bed a young woman spoke up and said, "He is right here. This is my

father, Mr. Foote, and he is from Alhambra, California." There followed a delightful chat with the gentleman, who explained the naming of the two varieties. On a trip to New Zealand some years ago, Mr. Foote could see Mt. Cook from his hotel window. One morning the sun rose over the mountain and for a brief moment looked like a pink diamond suspended in the sky, and Mr. Foote vowed to name an iris for that moment if he could ever capture the color. THE BLUE BOY was named for the Gainsborough painting of the same name, which hangs in the Huntington Art Museum near Mr. Foote's home in California.

Voting for the President's Cup this year was difficult as there are several hybridizers in the Huntsville area who have produced some magnificent varieties. Jimmy Burch's lacy light pink, FROSTY JEWELS ('79), was a good choice from among the many deserving beauties. SUGAR TREE ('76) by the late Bill Bledsoe, was a beautiful selection for the Franklin Cook Cup. Mr. Bledsoe actually lived in Tennessee, Region 7, though he was instrumental in starting the Huntsville Chapter of A.I.S.

Another A.I.S. Convention has come and gone, leaving many glorious memories and color slides, along with happy dreams of next year's meeting in Tulsa. What a wonderful hobby is this business of being an iris nut. This was well expressed by one bystander who was heard to remark as one group boarded the buses after lunch on the second tour day (in the rain, of course), "Look at all those people getting on those buses - they're all crazy about irises!"

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR JANUARY

NEWSCAST IS NOVEMBER 25, 1979

## NEW ROBIN PROGRAM

Your Editor has received a letter from Ruby Buchanan, Robins Chairman, requesting help in getting information to you about her plans for the newly activated Robin Program. To quote from her letter:

"I shall not make a habit of passing the buck Rena, but, deadline for NEWSCAST had already gone by when Roy requested me to write an article about the Robin Program. My system is so full of anti-biotics that my head feels stuffed with cotton as a result of an hour in a downpour trying to unstop a drain and rescue my irises from flood waters. The water was turned loose across newly planted garden rows with force enough to completely destroy them. After spending every dime I could spare for peat, sand, top soil and fertilizers and laboring for weeks preparing the ground, it made me sick to see everything being carried away in the muddy water. The rain is still falling, more gently now, but I did manage to "mend the dykes" before succumbing to chills and sore throat. Thank you for being a friend in need and writing the article."

Ruby urges you to advise her as soon as possible if you are interested in joining a robin. It would be well for you to let her know something about you, your garden and the phase of "irising" in which you are most interested.

I have not met Ruby but I know her well through her letters which are wonderfully interesting. She is so supportive and caring about everything--knowledgeable too---that it gives me a lift every time I hear from her. She will make us a marvelous Robins Chairman so please communicate with her right away so she can get some Robins flying.

ROBINS ARE FOR FUN---FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FOR DISCUSSING YOUR PROBLEMS AND GETTING ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

Address:

Ruby Buchanan  
3666 Tech Avenue  
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27107

# CULTURE OF IRISES

## A COMMONSENSE APPROACH FOR THE AVERAGE HOME GARDENER

Rena Crumpler

### PART V (b) ORGANIC MATTER - COMPOST

**COMPOSTING:** Compost is the easiest, most economical source of organic material. It is high level conservation which the individual can practice. Its benefits not only will be evident far into the future, but, the results are for you to enjoy in your lifetime. I know of nothing that will give your irises and your entire garden the "miracle touch" to the extent of compost added to your soil. You have heard comments that irises do not grow well in the same location year after year. I guarantee that with adequate fertilization and annual addition of organic material, you can grow irises in the same location as long as you care to do so. Many things that otherwise would be wasted can be used for composting, depending somewhat on your situation. Different materials will be available in various sections, some affected by whether you garden on a farm, in the suburbs, in town on a large lot or in town on a small spot with close neighbors, although objectionable odors can usually be controlled with little difficulty.

The materials most commonly used and easiest to come by fall into two categories... those that deteriorate or get rid of objectionable qualities slowly and those which can be broken down quickly. The ones which need time will be used mostly by gardeners with plenty of space.

#### **SLOW TO DECOMPOSE (1 - 3 years)**

**Cotton wastes:** Slow to decompose (a year or more) found in abundance in the South. It is fine composting material if you can give it time to decay.

**Sewerage sludge:** Often available in cities and towns for small cost. Should be weathered to have time to rid itself of harmful bacteria (about a year before it should be used in a compost pile).

Wool scraps: Chip as fine and possible, combine with other materials and allow about two years to disintegrate.

Shells and Nuts: Pecan, peanut and other relatively soft types are best. Do not use walnut hulls or any debris around walnut trees. Walnuts contain a chemical which kills bacteria and inhibits plant growth. (For the same reason, don't plant irises near a walnut tree.)

Bark, Wood Chips, Wood Shavings, and Sawdust: All make good compost but is not easy to break them down. All are better to use after they are in a pile for a year or two. Of course, common sense tells you that a small amount of the finer materials mixed well with your other compost can be used at any time. It works more quickly if high nitrogen fertilizer is added. I advise going slowly and experimenting before using large quantities of sawdust on irises and be sure it has lost its identity and been converted to humus before applying.

Hay and Straw: Need nitrogen and other materials in various stages of decomposition to quicken decaying action.

Corn Cobs, Wood Ashes: Listed together because they are available sources of organic potash. Corn cobs should be ground if used in the home compost pile and I would hesitate to use any great quantity of them. Fresh wood ashes should not be used in compost because they form lye which is harmful to soil bacteria. They are good if allowed to age but, here again, I would use them sparingly.

**FAST TO DECOMPOSE** (In warm weather, 3 or 4 months)

Products of the Sea: Fish wastes, seaweed, kelp. If you live near the coast, these are valuable products. They will deteriorate rapidly if provided with nitrogen.

Lawn Clippings, Weeds and Other Discarded Plants: These make good compost after you get by the initial problem of caking and matting, especially lawn clippings. Lime may be added rather heavily to keep down odor and hasten decay. Lawn clippings work better if mixed with dryer materials, or if allowed to dry on their own before composting.

Weeds and garden plants make excellent compost if you are careful to keep out anything infected by disease. They put back many elements that they have removed from the soil. Iris growers seem fearful of using old rhizomes, discarded debris, spent bloom stalks, withered foliage or fresh tops. This is valid only if your plants are diseased. For 20 years or more I have returned to the soil as compost every scrap of iris refuse except in rare instances where a particular plant has had rot. I have no leaf spot, few borers and seldom any rot. Occasionally, freeze damaged stalks will rot. Of course, these are carefully destroyed. I do maintain a clean garden and spray regularly throughout the growing season.

Table Scraps: Good for compost, particularly meat scraps.

Tobacco Wastes: Good for compost where available.

Manure: Animal Wastes: Excellent by themselves or mixed with other materials to make compost.

Leaves: Dried or from clippings. When fresh they have the same value as any other green material. Dried, they have low food value. However, with nitrogen added and layered in with old compost and soil they are excellent for compost.

Remember, almost anything organic will compost if:

1. It is of animal or vegetable origin, and,
2. If it can be broken down (decomposed) within a reasonable length of time, reasonable to be decided by you in the light of your particular location, space and needs.

#### AIDS IN COMPOSTING:

1. A compost grinder or shredder: They come in all sizes and types to fit almost any need. The decaying process can be cut by half or more if the material is ground or shredded. It also makes it easier to turn while the process is taking place and the material easier to dig into the soil at whatever stage you wish to incorporate it. This is much more important to the small grower who uses irises with other plants and where

it is impractical to use a tiller.

2. Your lawnmower: For leaves, many weeds and clippings, your power mower does an excellent job of shredding. Before mowing scatter material on the ground catching it and the grass in bags.

3. Limes: Cuts down odor, hastens action, keeps materials from becoming too acid and encourages growth of bacterial organisms as well as providing calcium. It is also a good soil conditioner on its own.

4. Chemical fertilizer between layers: Nitrogen, especially, is valuable in breaking down many substances. It feeds microorganisms and prevents them from removing too much nitrogen from the soil. The other elements of phosphorus and potash in addition to other functions, contribute to a nutritionally well-balanced compost. Organic fertilizer is not adequate for this purpose because the action is too slow.

5. Old decomposed compost.

6. Enough top soil for layering.

7. Well rotted manures, used to layer between fresh materials.

8. In cases where the last three items are not readily available, it may be advantageous to buy a commercial "compost activator" which contains bacterial cultures. The so called "herbal mixtures" are sometimes used but I am inclined to question their value.

#### THE COMPOST HEAP:

Any partly shaded location will do if:

1. Inconspicuous

2. Well drained

3. Small enough in area so you to get to it easily. Two or three small heaps are better than one large one.

**CONSTRUCTION:** Construct in alternate layers of organic material and soil. The material to be composted should regulate to some extent the thickness of the layers. Light material, which decays rapidly and creates less bulk can be thicker and soil layers thinner. Heavy material which decays slowly should be thinner and soil thicker. Layers of four to six inches in depth is a rule of thumb. Keep wet but not soggy. Turn every few weeks to give aeration.

**COMPOST PIT:** This method is not recommended but sometimes cannot be avoided. In such cases, it must be constructed in thin layers and turned often. Material which takes a long time to decay is not practical to use nor is material which has not been ground or shredded. Some partial protection should be provided so that it doesn't get too much moisture. The problem here is one of getting rid of carbon dioxide and giving the bacteria oxygen.

**METHODS OF ADDING ORGANIC MATERIAL OTHER THAN COMPOST TO THE SOIL:** Organic matter can be applied directly to the soil and dug or tilled into it. This can be done easily during the dormant months.

It may be applied as a mulch. (Avoid such things as fresh grass clippings and leaves for irises. They may pack down in wet weather and become a solid glob of material thus allowing too little air to get to the plant and encouraging leaf spot and rot). Any light material which does not pack might be used.

**SHEET COMPOSTING:** This is a term generally applied to growing a cover crop such as cereal grains, vetch, winter rye, buckwheat and lespedeza. The crop is allowed to mature and then is turned under. It can be used to great advantage where you have room to alternate growing areas, however, for the small home gardener, this method is not practical. It might be put to use to enrich and condition soil in a vacant lot before building or in any vacant space where you intend to grow plants later.

**Note:** As indicated in the April issue of NEWSCAST, this installment completes the CULTURE OF IRISES. It is hoped that it has been of some small help to the new growers of irises.

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INDEX

	Page
Newscast Staff	1
Region 4 Board	2
Editor's Page	3
R. V. P.'s Message	4
To Naomi O'Brien	6
Minutes- Executive Board Spring Meeting	8
Treasurer's Report	10
Publicity & P.R.	12
Median Report	13
Exhibitions Report	13
Reblooming Iris	14
Blue Ridge Chapter	15
Eastern N.C. Chapter	15
Marydel Chapter	16
Western N.C. Chapter	16
Membership Report	17
Fall Meeting-Region 4	21
Mulching	23
Membership (Supplement)	24
Thoughts from Huntsville	25
New Robin Program	27
Culture of Irises-Part 5(b)	28
Rena Crumpler	3
Roy Epperson	4
Earl T. Browder	6
Sam Owens	10
Rena Crumpler	12
Jean Hoffmeister	13
Frances Brown	13
Lloyd Zurbrigg	14
Mildred Trent	15
Susan Grigg	15
Paul Hoffmeister	16
B. J. Brown	16
Helen Rucker	17
Claire Barr	21
Nannie Paquet	23
Helen Rucker	24
Claire Barr	25
Ruby Buchanan	27
Rena Crumpler	28