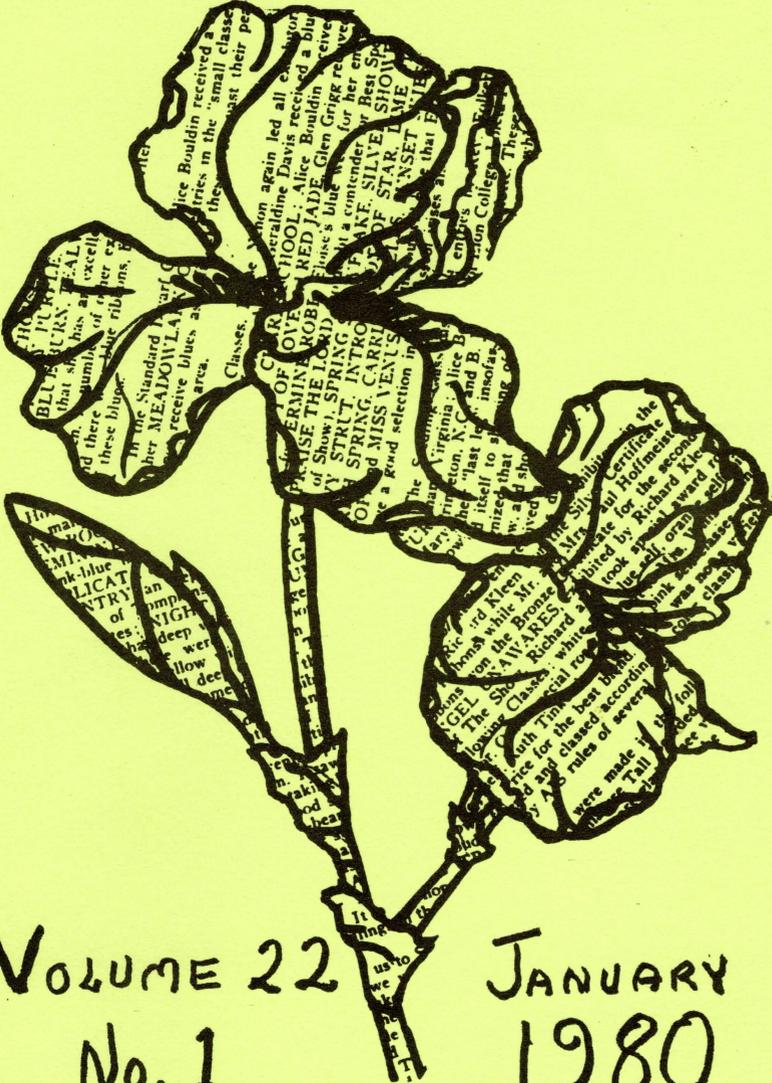


A.I.S. REGION 4 NEWSCAST



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JANUARY
1980

NEWSCAST

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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.. Mrs. Andrew C. Warner

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CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSCAST!

R.V.P.'s MESSAGE

As we end the 1970's and look forward to the 1980's we can see some degree of progress in the American Iris Society and Region 4. Both have undergone some internal difficulties in the past few years, but both have emerged stronger, flourishing, and progressing as a hobby society. Much of the formal actions of the American Iris Society take place at the Spring and Fall Executive Board Meetings of A.I.S. These minutes can make fairly dull reading sometimes, yet each of us should study them when they are published. I would like to lift several items from the Fall 1979 minutes for your interest and consideration.

- authorization has been given for a new edition of the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials; also authorization for a new booklet to replace What Every Iris Grower Should Know.
- the membership of the American Iris Society showed a total of 6019 members as of September 30, 1979, and the report indicated significant membership increases in 1978 and 1979.
- future National AIS Convention sites are scheduled as follows:
 - 1980 Tulsa, OK
 - 1981 St. Louis, MO
 - 1982 Denver, CO
 - 1983 New England
 - 1984 Seattle, WA
- two Region 4 Accredited AIS Judges were appointed to Senior Judgeships: B. J. Brown, of Charlotte, NC, and Paul L. Hoffmeister, Neavitt, MD. We congratulate these deserving judges for the years of hard work that this Senior Judgeship recognizes.
- each Chapter Chairman should note that for an AIS-approved show to be properly reported, the

show report must be accompanied by a copy of the printed show schedule. This is a new rule.

Since the Region 4 membership will not hold a meeting in 1980 at bloom season, please make every effort to visit as many gardens as you can, enter at least one AIS-approved show, and enjoy your own plantings! I hope to see many of you in your gardens this spring! Happy planning and enjoyment of the iris!!

Roy

EDITOR'S PAGE

MORE ABOUT NEWSCAST FORMAT

At the Fall Region 4 meeting in Radford, your Editor reported to the Executive Board a 43% decrease in the cost of the September NEWSCAST, compared to the average cost of the three preceding issues. As an experiment, the September issue was reduced to the least possible number of pages. Admittedly, this resulted in closer spacing and narrower margins than your Editor cares to maintain in future issues. Therefore, still experimenting, we have widened the margins and relaxed the spacing in this issue. We believe this will make the publication easier to read and more attractive and still result in at least a 40% saving.

AWARDS TO REGION 4

Congratulations to our hybridizers: For TBs - Dr. Nearpass is the winner of the A.M. for DOVER BEACH. Gene Burger's DEEP PACIFIC was a runner-up for A.M. Gene Burger's CRYSTAL CITY received the H.M. as did George Crossman's LOUDOUN BELIGHT and the Hoffmeister's GAMBOGE GAL, Nearpass' PINK PICOTEE and ROSE TATTOO.

For S.D.B. - George Crossman won an H.M. for LOUDOUN PIXIE.

We probably have some H.C. winners which have not yet been published.

MAILING NEWSCAST

Your Editor has been asked why NEWSCAST is mailed third class instead of at the rate for a non-profit organization. We have tried (three times) to get this approved and have always been told by the Post Office that A.I.S. was not approved for non-profit mailing. Apparently, this was because of some technicality. You will note that the National Bulletin has always been mailed third class as are most of the other Regions' bulletins. However, a few Regions have gotten "non-profit" status. With those publications as evidence, as well as our bylaws and other documents, we are trying once again.

APRIL NEWSCAST

Please make a special effort to report to the Editor, before March 20th, your auction or sale dates and your plans for your spring tours. This is especially important in a year when there is no Regional meeting. You maybe surprised at the number of guests you'll have from other chapters.

Rena

DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSCAST- MARCH 20

EXECUTIVE BOARD - REGION 4 - A.I.S.

October 6, 1979

The Executive Board of Region 4, A.I.S. held its regular fall meeting on Saturday, October 6, 1979, at 3:30 P.M. in the Colonial Room of the Tyler Hotel-Motel in Radford, Virginia. The meeting was open to the membership, and all those present were welcomed by RVP Epperson, who presided. Dr. Epperson mentioned those Board members who were absent and from whom he had heard. The death of Mrs. Nearpass, wife of Board member Dr. D. C. Nearpass, was noted with deep regret.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as printed in NEWSCAST.

Treasurer: Mr. Owens presented the treasurer's report, which will be printed in full. Receipts listed included \$358.00 from the spring iris auction at Smithfield and a contribution of \$20.00 from Mrs. Ruby Buchanan of Eastern North Carolina Chapter (credited to that chapter). Not included in the report as filed to be printed (either received too late or not yet received) were contributions of \$200.00 from Blue Ridge Chapter, \$50.00 from Eastern North Carolina Chapter, and \$150.00 from Marydel Chapter, an increase of \$400.00. Mr. Owens said that the total amount disbursed, \$203.30, was the cost of the September issue of NEWSCAST and represented approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the cost of previous issues. The treasurer's report will be filed.

Membership: Dr. Epperson presented Mrs. Rucker's report which will be printed. He noted that as of October 1, Region 4 had 244 memberships, of which 43 are family memberships, bringing the total number of members to 287. Mrs. Buchanan has recruited some new youth members for Eastern North Carolina. Dr.

Epperson stressed the fact that retention of members is as important as recruitment. From A.I.S. President Leon Wolford has come word that as of Sept. 22, A.I.S. memberships have passed the 6000 mark; the 1982 A.I.S. Convention will be held in Denver, and the 1984 Convention in Seattle; from President Wolford, also, a reminder to everyone that A.I.S. must have continued financial support to avoid dues increases.

Judges' Training: Dr. Epperson reported on changes in the Region 4 roster of judges: (1) Judges B. J. Brown and Paul Hoffmeister have been recommended for appointment as Senior Judges; (2) the name of Mrs. Claude O'Brien, who died in May, has been removed; (3) Mr. and Mrs. John Dughi's names have been removed because they have resigned; (4) Mrs. Andrew Warner has been recommended for appointment as an apprentice judge. Region 4 is very active in Judges' Training. This morning there was a class in garden judging of remontant irises conducted by Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg; after lunch there was a class in exhibition judging, with credit for apprentices, instructed by R.V.P. Epperson; tonight there will be a class in judging median irises led by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoffmeister. Other classes during the year included two on awards, one in Baltimore led by Mrs. Dasch and one at the Smithfield meeting led by Dr. Epperson; and as a joint effort of Region 3 and Francis Scott Key Chapter, a class on exhibition judging was taught in Pennsylvania by A.I.S. Membership Secretary, Ronald Mullin of Oklahoma. Nine Region 4 judges received credit for courses taken at Huntsville, and 20 at Smithfield. Four Region 4 judges did not cast timely ballots, and four senior or honorary judges did not vote. Next week Region 4 Judge Fred Stephenson will conduct a Judges' Training course at the fall meeting of Region 5.

Publicity and Public Relations and NEWSCAST:

Mrs. Crumpler elaborated on Mr. Owen's report of publishing costs, stating that the cost of the latest issue of NEWSCAST was 43% of the average cost of the three issues prior to that one, a substantial savings. There were favorable comments on the September issue. Mrs. Crumpler repeated her plea for material for NEWSCAST.

Affiliates: R.V.P. Epperson spoke on the subject of affiliates, noting that at present Region 4 has one affiliate, the Francis Scott Key Iris Society, and hoping that by the end of 1980 there will be four. The new ones would be (1) the North Carolina Iris Society, of which he is a past president; (2) the Charlotte Iris Society, of which Mr. B. J. Brown is president; and (3) the Carolina Mountain Iris Society, of which Mr. J. D. Stadler is the new president.

The following reports were presented and/or filed to be printed in NEWSCAST:

Median Irises - Mrs. Paul Hoffmeister
Reblooming Irises - Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg

(At this time, a rousing vote of thanks was given to Dr. and Mrs. Zurbrigg for their gracious hospitality in again entertaining Region 4 members at Radford.)

Robins: Mrs. Buchanan was unable to attend; her report will be filed and printed. Dr. Zurbrigg spoke of the possibility of forming a Reblooming Robin.

Auctions and Awards: At this time Mrs. Alice Bouldin showed those present the lovely inscribed Bobby Lee Evans Award. Dr. Epperson read some of the 1979 list of Awards.

Budget: In the absence of Dr. A. W. Rice, Treasurer, Owens reported. The Region's major expense has been NEWSCAST. After two more issues using new publishing procedures, NEWSCAST will be reevaluated. Chapter contributions have not been coming in as they used to in some cases, and the Region has been practicing deficit spending. Members were reminded of a recommendation which was discussed and accepted several years ago - the the chapters contribute approximately \$3.00 per member each year to the support of the region.

Mr. Owens, who is resigning as Treasurer, received the thanks of everyone present for his years of service in that capacity.

Chapter Reports: Chapter Reports were received from Blue Ridge, Francis Scott Key and Marydel.

Popularity Poll: Thirty-eight ballots were returned in Region 4, with 46 members voting. The report will be printed.

Fall Meeting - 1980: An invitation was issued by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoffmeister on behalf of the Marydel Chapter to hold this meeting in Easton, Maryland, October 10-11, 1980. On motion by Mrs. Crumpler, seconded by Mrs. Trent, the Board voted to accept the invitation of Marydel Chapter. Members are urged to mark their calendars. Details will come later. R.V.P. Epperson, as Auction Chairman, asked authority to purchase beardless irises for auction at this meeting in light of the fact that there will be no fund-raising auction in the spring of 1980. It was moved by Mr. Hoffmeister, seconded by Mr. Owens, that Dr. Epperson be empowered to buy these irises at the discretion of the Auction Committee with a limit of \$100.00. The motion passed. It was agreed that Mr. and Mrs. Hoffmeister and other members of Marydel would be responsible for meeting arrangements in Easton and

that Dr. Epperson and Mrs. Barr would plan the program.

There was discussion of the Bobby Lee Evans Award and the Claude and Naomi O'Brien Award, both of which must be suspended for 1980, as there will be no regional meeting during the 1980 bloom season. There was discussion of a meeting place for spring of 1981, with nothing decided. Region members should be notified as soon as possible about the location of a 1981 Spring Meeting, so that seedlings can be planted for viewing.

Nominating Committee: The following committee was appointed:

Mr. Paul Hoffmeister, Chairman, Md.
Mr. Sam Owens, W. Va.
Mrs. Mildred Trent, Va.
Mrs. Polly Price, N. C.

R.V.P. Epperson reminded the committee that inasmuch as the present R.V.P. is from North Carolina and the Asst. R.V.P. is from Maryland it would be well to nominate someone from West Virginia or Virginia as the incoming Asst. R.V.P. The slate of officers will be presented to the membership in the April NEWSCAST. Elections usually take place at the spring regional meeting. As there will be no spring regional, the election will be held at the 1980 fall meeting and those elected will take office immediately.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Claire Barr

Recording Secretary, Pro-Tem

TREASURER'S REPORT

REGION 4 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

From May 5, 1979 to October 2, 1979

Balance from last treasurer's report....\$1,169.11

RECEIVED:

5/24/79 Iris auction at Smithfield.....	358.00
8/8/79 Eastern N.C. Chapter Contrib....	<u>20.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIVED.....	378.00

DISBURSED:

9/30/79 Rena Crumpler-Sept.NEWSCAST.....	176.25
9/30/79 Kay Cooper-Postage,Sept.NEWSCAST	<u>27.05</u>
TOTAL DISBURSED.....	203.30

BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCT..... 410.26

Balance in savings Account which includes interest of \$133.62..... 933.55

TOTAL BALANCE.....\$1,343.81

\$45.58 Reserved for a memorial fund

Sam Owens, Treasurer

REGION 4, A.I.S.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - MAY 1979 - OCT. 1979

Report Sheet from National - Aug. 3 listed 224 Total Memberships - including 8 Youth Memberships and 1 Life Membership (Mrs. O'Brien). Before the report left Dr. Epperson, we had lost our Life Member, had a resignation and added 5 New Members. Report figures at that time were $224 + 5 - 2 = 227$ memberships including 8 Youth Members.

Aug. 15th and Sept. additions gave us 17 New Members, including 1 Youth. Total Oct. 1, 1979 - 244 Memberships including 9 Youth. We list 43 Family Memberships which raises the Total, 244 + 43 = 287 Members.

Since May 1979 we have added New Memberships as follows:

F.S.K. - 6 Memberships
Mary-Del - 9 Memberships (includes 1 Youth)
C. & P. - 14 Memberships
E.N.C. - 11 Memberships (includes 3 Youth)
W.N.C. - 4 Memberships
Virginia - 2 Memberships
W. Va. - 4 Memberships

TOTAL NEW MEMBERSHIPS this period - 50 (includes 4 Youth)

NOTE: Names deleted in NEWSCAST were not in the above figures. These were not on the list from National.

NOTE: Mr. Carl Carpenter - moved from State.

Helen Rucker, Membership Chairman

Oct. 4, 1979

THE FIRST ROBIN

Isn't it a welcome surprise to see the first Robin appear on a cold day in late winter or very early spring? He never worries, though the ground is frozen, a chilly wind may ruffle his feathers, and traces of snow linger on the northern slopes. He knows that underneath the frozen earth wonderful things are stirring, which only need the warm sunshine to burst forth into vigorous growth and beauty.

He never tarries at my house, but I'm glad he flies by to remind me that winter is over - the Robins are here!!

They are a friendly species - those Robins. Absolutely fearless and hard to discourage, insatiably curious - always "wanting to know", yet incredibly quick to share their treasures with others. There are birds of every feather in the species and they are well worth cultivating.

Whether you are a "pollen dauber" or a serious hybridizer, you are sure to find "birds of like feather" in a Hybridizing Robin. Why not share your expertise with younger, less experienced hybridizers, by sharing a Robin with them? Or if you are a beginner in daubing pollen, bring your questions to the Robin. It's fun searching for answers and finding them through the Robin.

Interested in the reblooming iris? Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg is famous for growing them, and you may join a Remontant Iris Robin under his direction. He has consented to act as Director for a Remontant Iris Robin, so please let's not delay in contacting our friends who love the "two-timers", for this Robin.

We need to encourage our youth members to form a Youth Robin of their own. But, meanwhile, why not invite them to join the General Interest Robin now? Region 4, AIS, General Interest Robin #1 went into flight in September, but there is still room on the Route List for you. Please think about it!!

We haven't forgotten or neglected the "Species nuts" (?) among Region 4, AIS members. Your Robins Chairman is 'specially "nutty" about iris species. However, "Rome wasn't built in a day", and response is slow. If you are interested in the beardless hybrids or in the pure iris species, let us hear from you. The field is endless.

Have you got the Robin's message yet? Why not help him spread the word throughout the Region. Let's look beyond the surface which may seem frozen with apathy and chilled by whispers of indifference and neglect. Why worry about the traces of discontent and dissention? The warmth of a friendly smile, or a cheerful letter can bring the wonderful potentialities of Region 4, AIS into vigorous growth and the results may be beautiful to see.

Tell it to the birds - Join a Robin.

Mrs. N. E. Buchanan, Chairman
113 Southoak Drive W
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27107

MEDIAN REPORT

10/6/79

All in all, it was a good season for the Medians. Fall growth is progressing nicely in our garden here on the Eastern Shore. Let's hope that the winter of '79 - '80 is not as severe as the past two winters. We are thankful that the genus iris is truly a hardy perennial, but we don't wish to push our luck this year.

My husband and I will conduct a short judging program on Medians at the fall meeting in Radford, Va. and then follows a long winter to plan and dream of a successful Median season in 1980.

Median bloom was great this year.
No rot, no borer, no stunted growth.
Just lots of color, bright and clear!
And so endeth my brief report.

Jean M. Hoffmeister

Median Chairman

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

The Blue Ridge Chapter met July 7, 1979 at the Garden Center, 2713 Avenham Ave., S. W., Roanoke, Va. A covered dish luncheon was enjoyed by sixteen members. A short business meeting was held followed by a very profitable (about \$500.00) auction of our irises, some of which were grown especially for this sale. New irises have been planted for next years sale. A nominating committee was elected to present a slate of officers for next year; to be presented for vote at the October meeting. Fall meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter will be in Roanoke on Sunday October 14, 1979.

Mildred Trent, Chapter Chairman

F.S.K. REPORT

The Francis Scott Key Iris Society had a garden tour meeting and picnic on Sunday, May 27th. The picnic was at Maywood, the Harp's summer place. The tour gardens included the Rebert, Warner, Figge, and Harp.

Our sale was on Saturday, the 14th of July. This was held at Watson's Garden Center.

On Sunday, July 29th, Ron Mullin, Membership Secretary and former National Chairman of Judges' Training, spoke at our dinner meeting at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Glyndon.

Mrs. Andrew C. Warner (Carol) is our President-Elect.

The Reporter for FSK will be Mrs. Warner.

Doris Simpson,
Retiring President, F.S.K.

MARYDEL CHAPTER

Marydel's May 20th iris show under its new chairman, Willa Owens, was a real success involving several new ideas. Its question/conversation corner, attractively furnished, was one. We credit our last two shows, in which we made special efforts to interest new members, with a net increase of ten in our membership over this date last year.

Mrs. Owens, a new member only two years ago, has inspired a nice balance of old and new members to work with her this coming season in preparing for our eleventh annual show which is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 1980. Since Region 4 is not planning a spring meeting in 1980 we hope to attract some Region 4 judges for this show, at long last.

The success of our July iris sale and auction allows us to send \$150.00 to Region 4 to help with its expenses again this year. It also supports our shows and pays for digging and weeding the Easton town iris planting which was started years ago under Elmira Purdy.

Since all of our new members are retired (except our new six year old youth member) and at the same time comparative neophytes at the iris mystique, we are slanting our meeting programs this year toward the instructional. This is evident on inspection of the 1979-80 "Program" booklet submitted herewith.

Paul L. Hoffmeister, Chairman

WE NEED YOUR ARTICLE FOR NEWSCAST!

RADFORD MEETING

Claire Barr

It happened again! Two years in a row Radford has been the scene of Region 4's fall meeting on the first weekend of October, and twice we have had good fall weather, a little cool and blustery, perhaps, but good. Better yet, we have had beautiful irises, warm hospitality, and people to match the beauty and the warmth. Don't think we weren't lucky this time - the very next week after our meeting Radford had a hefty snowfall, as did most parts of the region.

The fall meeting of the Executive Board has been opened to all members who can come and now includes, among other things, Judges' Training Classes. The two Radford meetings have given us the added attractions of Lloyd Zurbrigg's rebloomers and Juanita Zurbrigg's good cooking.

Those of us who arrived Friday night had dinner together and then enjoyed a slide show given by Rosalie Figge and Bill Barr. Pictures were primarily ones of Huntsville gardens from the convention, with a few good ones of the Huntsville Space Center, also.

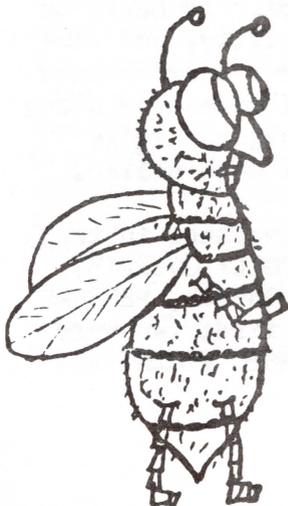
Saturday morning the group met bright and early and carpoled to Lloyd's Dublin and Radford gardens to view the many lovely stalks of seedlings and introductions and to receive information and instruction on rebloomers from Lloyd. Of all those we saw, my favorite was the handsome new lavender-on-white plicata, EARL OF ESSEX, which was in complete command of a new bed planted in front of the Radford house. Others particularly enjoyed were the old favorites RED GRAPES, JEAN GUYMER, and I DO, as well as SCHREINER'S VICTORIA FALLS, It was fun to see pretty cut stalks of rebloomers on the lovely

refreshment table at the Zurbrigg home, among them a stalk of the new BABY BLESSED (BABY BLESSED refused to open in one Maryland garden in time for the meeting.)

Back at the hotel meeting room after lunch we were greeted with a table of 18 to 20 stalks of re-bloomers, some good, some not so good, set up for a class in exhibition judging. The class, led by Roy Epperson, was open to all, with credit for apprentice judges only. What a treat to enjoy the fragrance of a room full of irises in October and receive valuable instruction at the same time.

The open Board Meeting followed the class, and then we broke for dinner. The final event was the evening class on median irises taught by Jean and Paul Hoffmeister, who used beautiful slides and gave a wealth of information.

There were thirty-three reservations for this meeting, including Evelyn Kegerise, Immediate Past R.V.P. of Region 3, and her husband, Grant. Four of the 33 could not make it, unfortunately. They were missed, as were all the others who could not get there. It was an extremely good week-end for fun, fellowship and flowers, with information and instruction thrown in for good measure.



JUST ABOUT THE TIME YOU THINK
YOU CAN MAKE ENDS MEET-----
SOMEBODY MOVES THE ENDS!

(Contributed by an iris friend who shall remain anonymous).

THE IMPOSSIBLE QUEST ?

Lloyd Zurbrigg

It seems like a review of ancient history to tell what started me on the highways and byways of the search for the ideal remontant iris. In short, it was a complete freeze-out one year and a complete hail-out the next, due to the vagaries of the southern Indiana climate. I vowed there and then that I would never cease from the attempt to make the iris a reblooming flower. Three years between bloom seasons was just too, too much. The late Paul Cook, when I told him of my resolve, stated that I should not expect anything noteworthy for at least ten years! The ten years were up in 1972, and I am still struggling to narrow that gap in quality between the best once-blooming iris and the best remontant iris!

Still, progress is coming and may be almost around the corner. Certainly the judges who make it to the Radford gardens have been louder in their praises each year. SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS, if it had only had the luck to bloom at Convention time in the past three years, would surely have gotten some votes. It looks quite comfortable in the company of the better once-blooming yellows in the spring season, and really stands out in October, second week, when it begins its second period of bloom. It bears on its hafts traces of its plicata ancestry, and some purists will object to that. Otherwise it is hard to fault it, and I think of it as a milestone along the highroad toward the ideal remontant. It is very pod-fertile, but does not bear much pollen.

An earlier milestone was the appearance in the fall of '71 of VIOLET SUPREME and JOLLY GOLIATH, along with the two siblings of the latter, PERFUME COUNTER and DAWN VIOLET. When the first two were intercrossed, VIOLET CLASSIC and MAGIC VIOLET ap-

peared. Both were remontants with superb form, and both were used a lot in my hybridizing. MAGIC VIOLET has not yet been introduced, for it is so reliable in its remontancy, (and a trifle slow in reproduction,) that I have been unable to get enough stock to introduce. By sending it north, I hope to have overcome that difficulty, for it never re-blooms before October. Formerly seedling H 22 Margo, MAGIC VIOLET is easily identified by its white crest at the end of the light blue beards. SONG OF SALVATION is an outstanding example of its ability as a parent, a superbly formed deep violet with black tones, that could not be faulted by the judges this spring. Unfortunately, (from my point of view,) it does not remont, and it blooms so very, very late in the season, that most of the other iris are gone, and it has been hard to make crosses with it. From the very few seedlings that I have bloomed from it the past two years, I rate it right at the top of all my introductions as a parent. Since it boasts HALT as its other parent, SONG OF SALVATION should be a most remarkable parent indeed. One of its seedlings this year was a gray with prominent blue beards.

From the measurement of how often it was used as a parent and grandparent, it would appear that O MY GOODNESS must be a turning point in the direction of my quest. From AVIS X DA CAPO, this unusual iris shows no hint of following its potent father's footsteps in regard to remontancy. Still, in spite of its unpredictable coloration, which seems to change with every soil in which it grows, it has held a fascination over me. I count only 15 crosses from O MY GOODNESS, but among its progeny are EARL with 19 crosses, FAIR FLORA, with 6, HALT with 18, and ART OF RAPHAEL with no less than 43, not counting this year! Until this year I have been cross-examining myself about spending so much effort in this novelty line, for AVIS seems to have been very tenacious in its ability to block remontancy in the

offspring. This spring, however, the breaks in color are evident, particularly in regard to bright blue beards on pastel colors. The two judges commented most favorably on O 151-3, a chartreuse with deep blue beards, with exemplary form and substance. Earlier in the season there were O 192 First, a horizontally-flaring orchid-blue with superb blue beards on a blue signal, and its sibling, O 192 bbb, pale violet with veining, rim and hafts of gold, and those marvelous blue beards.

Mention has been made of a gray or lavender-gray seedling with blue beards out of SONG OF SALVATION. The pod parent was from a courageous cross of O MY GOODNESS to its seedling AH SWEET MYSTERY. (Three of its siblings will be introduced in 1980, all of them exhibiting colored texture-veining in a novel and, hopefully, very pleasing manner.) The gray-lavender is number N 40-2. From the same pod parent crossed to a sibling of SONG OF SALVATION came an even better seedling, # N 41-bb, a gray iris with bright blue beards and central line that really stand out. It is also very fragrant.

Only one from this line of seedlings has shown that it will be a surefire remontant. It is a light blue, with blending, that branches from the ground, with six branches and terminal! After setting a good pod, and then being transplanted in mid-summer, it sent up a stalk in September, and has another now in mid-October. This is from a sib to the pod parent of N 40-2 and N 41-bb, by pollen of a sib to SONG OF SALVATION, making it a double cousin to them, and thus surely carrying some of the factors for the blue beards.

If O MY GOODNESS was some kind of turning point, it seems to have made the path toward the goal into a detour. JEAN GUYMER, on the other hand, has seemed to be a big signpost marked "Shortcut". This

large, clear apricot-pink has proven to be almost an everbloomer, and when mated to the right parent, produces some of these nearly everbloomers in its progeny. It could do with better form and more substance, but few could fault its performance in regard to growth and rebloom. Two of its offspring produced two maiden stalks each in early August, and followed through with another each in September! One of them, left untransplanted, has another stalk almost ready to open now!

It is a temptation to try crossing JEAN GUYMER with its counterpart in violet-blue, SUMMER HOLIDAYS. This, too, shows an intensification of the genes for remontancy, and along with two of its siblings, usually stays in bloom in June, when all other tallers are resting, following the spring bloom season. SUMMER HOLIDAYS needs better form and more substance, and also better color. The blues in its background - TRITON, MUSIC MAKER, SKY QUEEN AND TYROLEAN BLUE have been diluted by some of the remontant parents. It may prove to be a short-cut full of obstacles, but lack of vigor will not likely be one of them!

The DA CAPO seedling that inherited its father's kingdom was CROSS STITCH. Of the many, many seedlings raised, this one alone was an improvement upon its parent in almost every way. It is larger, broader, heavier in substance, perhaps not quite so good in branching but adequate, and just as early in rebloom most seasons. It also has the ability to give excellent form and substance to a good portion of its offspring, along with superb growing habits. NEEDLECRAFT is an excellent example of this, tho' the non-remontant influence of RIBBON ROUND still keeps it from rebloom most seasons.

GRAND BAROQUE was a lucky break, in that it was a remontant directly out of HENRY SHAW. Perhaps it would not be too fanciful to compare it to a staff on which I have leaned often in the uphill

journey. It has produced the lovely white, I DO, the yellow amoena, BAROQUE PRELUDE and the near green amoena KEY LIME. With CROSS STITCH, it is responsible for the almost everblooming ENGLISH COTTAGE, and it is the pollen parent of the somewhat everblooming RIME FROST. I recall vividly at the Lansing Convention seeing GRAND BAROQUE and its remontant parent, Raymond Smith's REPLICATA, standing proudly in clumps of full bloom, while at their feet were the remains of the smitten "once-bloomers", that had succumbed to a late freeze in the Northrup garden.

Another milepost along the hard road toward quality was HALLOWEEN PARTY, which I obtained from Jim Gibson and introduced. This brought lace and heavy ruffling into the line, along with some vivid colorations. Not quite as hardy as most of my line, it is still proving to have been a very valuable addition. When its pollen was placed on a seedling from (MISS ILLINI x GRAND BAROQUE), one of the resulting seedlings was SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS. HALLOWEEN PARTY pollen on a seedling from (RADIANT APOGEE x DA CAPO) gave the vivacious FIJI DANCER, which in turn is giving some remarkable color breaks, including a real "red on white" plicata. Crossed directly on GRAND BAROQUE, HALLOWEEN PARTY pollen produced HALLOWED THOUGHT, not a finished iris, but one that is heavily laced, has remarkably fine stalks and growth, and is a most dependable rebloomer from mid-July on to freeze-up.

It might appear that MISS VENUS and her more austere sister, MISS JUPITER, represent the primrose path of dalliance. Certainly they have been a step aside from the remontant quest until lately, when I determined to try to combine the extra petaloids with the reblooming habit. No world-shaking evidence of success is as yet apparent, but some hints of hope have arrived. In the fall of '78 a new seedling, N 49 Y gave maiden bloom the latter

part of August. This fall almost every division of it has produced a stalk, so its remontancy is unquestioned. It is from a sibling to LATEST STYLE by pollen of an inbred seedling of MISS VENUS. It is an acceptable yellow iris with some ruffling, and has proven to be fertile both ways. Two more remontants were identified this fall from this line of endeavor. Then this spring came a big bonus. I had crossed GRAND DAME with pollen of MISS JUPITER in order to capture the great width of the former, and succeeded beyond my fondest hopes. N 8-1 has some of the width and some of the blue color of GRAND DAME, plus a trumpet almost as large as the flounce of MISS JUPITER. The flowers are large, and of rather excellent form on superb stalks. This has also proven very fertile both ways. The trumpet, shaped like that of a cattleya orchid, lies atop the fall, and has a highly frilled lip.

Yet another Space-Age crossed to a remontant yielded N 84 Spoons, which has been named SPOON TIME. This personable yellow iris carries its long spoons vertically to the hafts, so that they cannot be ignored. The pod parent is K 39 Y, from (GOLDEN UNICORN x CRINKLED IVORY) X SUPER FLOUNCE. The pollen parent is from (GENTLE PRESENCE x JAVA DOVE) X (CRINKLED IVORY x AUTUMN SENSATION) x (GRAND BAROQUE). I could wish there were more remontancy in the pollen parent, but there were some very nice things in this cross, and much seed was set on them.

The spring season ended, as usual, with a feeling of discouragement on my part. The impossible quest still lay ahead. And yet, some evidences of progress were there, and hope will build anew through the fallow days of winter. I can revel in December with the warm memories of a truly thrilling red from SPARTAN X RADFORD RED, and perhaps dream up just the right cross to make to transport its beauty into the remontant camp. In January I shall

exult in the possibilities of the seed in the cross Q 5, which is BAKED ALASKA X SONG OF SALVATION. Surely that will give a magnificent pastel iris with heavy blue beards.

Well no! Come to think of it, I am probably going to be so engrossed with the duties of new fatherhood that I'll be lucky to be able to think of iris at all this winter!

POPULARITY POLL 1979

Region 4

There were 38 ballots received, with 46 members of Region 4 voting.

<u>Votes</u>	<u>Variety</u>
23	STEPPING OUT
21	LORD BALTIMORE
18	PINK TAFFETA
17	DEBBY RAIRDON
16	BRIDE'S HALO
15	VANITY
14	DUSKY DANCER, KILT LILT
13	CAMELOT ROSE, CUP RACE, LEMON MIST
12	DOVER BEACH, SHIPSHAPE
11	ICE SCULPTURE, MYSTIQUE
10	LOUDOUN LASSIE, NIGHT OWL, QUEEN OF HEARTS, SPINNING WHEEL

Votes were cast for 285 varieties on the Ballot and 58 write-in varieties. Of those varieties receiving at least 10 votes, 6 are Dykes Medalists and 4 are Region 4 introductions. Two write-in varieties received more than one vote - DREAM ROMANCE with 4 and SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS with 3.

Sixteen of these varieties also received 10 or more votes in 1978.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (SUPPLEMENT)

January 10, 1980

F.S.K.

New: Mrs. Alf Sorenson, 1307 Ablett Rd, Baltimore,
MD. 21239

Delete: Ann Branch Dasch) Owings Mills, MD
Mr. Robert Dasch) 21117
Miss Valerie Dasch) (Moved to Region #14)

MARYDEL

Delete: Mr./Mrs. Benjamin D. Palmer, Sherwood, MD.
31665

Address Change: Mrs. F. I. Tinker, 201 Green St.,
St. Michaels, MD. 21663

C. and P.

New: Camelot Garden Club
c/o Mrs. Jack Walters, 8221 Guinvere Dr.,
Annandale, VA. 22003

Correction: Mrs. Geo. A. Thomas, 12410 Lawyers Rd.,
Herndon, VA. 22070

NORFOLK

New: Dr. Stephen D. Bell, 4001 Hawksley Dr.,
Chesapeake, VA. 23321
Mrs. P. Harper, 219 Robanna Shores, Seaford,
VA. 23696

E.N.C.

New: Mr. Carl Privette, Rt. 1, Box 248, Louisburg,
N. C. 27549
Mrs. Ruth Ritchie, Rt. 2, Box 495, McLeans-
ville, N. C. 27301
Lisa Michelle Stadler, 1613 Country Club Rd.,
Reidsville, N. C. 27320 (YOUTH)

Correction: Mrs. Alice Bouldin, Rt. 2, Box 379,
Elon College, N. C. 27244
Mrs. Ruby Buchanan, 113 Southoak Dr.,
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27107

W.N.C.

New: Mr. Robert B. Cresson, Rt. 2, Box 253,
Kannapolis, N. C. 28081
Mr. James Dugue, Rt. 1, Box 126, Rosman, N.C.
28772

W. VA.

New: The Rev. Charles C. Jack, Box 456, Alderson,
W. VA. 24901

Mrs. I. D. Van Metre, P. O. Box 786, Martins-
burg, W. VA. 25401

Helen Rucker, Membership Chairman

MARTIN VIETTE

We are distressed to report the death of Martin Viette who died of a heart attack at his winter home in St. Thomas, December 10, 1979. He had celebrated his 75th birthday on December 4. He was the beloved father of Andre Viette, our distinguished A.I.S. member at Fishersville, VA.

Mr. Viette was a native of Switzerland who came to America when he was 16 years old. He worked at the Havermeyer Estate gardens, well known at the time and was in charge of these gardens for some years. He started his own horticulture business in 1929 and maintained extensive gardens on Long Island for many years. He was a talented hybridizer of irises and daylilies. Those A.I.S. members of earlier times will remember visiting his beautiful estate at conventions in New York and New Jersey. In 1976 when Andre and Claire established their home gardens in the Shenandoah Valley, near Staunton, Andre's parents settled a short distance away at Weyer's Cave.

Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Viette, to Andre and Claire and their very lovely family.

PROSPECTIVE AFFILIATES

October 28, 1979

Dear Mrs. Crumpler,

The fall meeting of the Carolina Mountains Iris Society was held today with 21 members and guests present. As requested, we discussed the possibility of affiliation with A.I.S. The group decided to think about the possibility longer, and decide at a later date. At the present time only one-third of our group are A.I.S. members. We are growing, maybe in the future, affiliation will be probable.

We'll look forward to reading your articles in NEWSCAST and send our best wishes for a wonderful fall!

Sincerely,

Carolina Mountains Iris Society

Flossie Nelson, President

MORE ABOUT ROBINS

(From a letter from the Robins Chairman. Ed.)

Dear Rena,

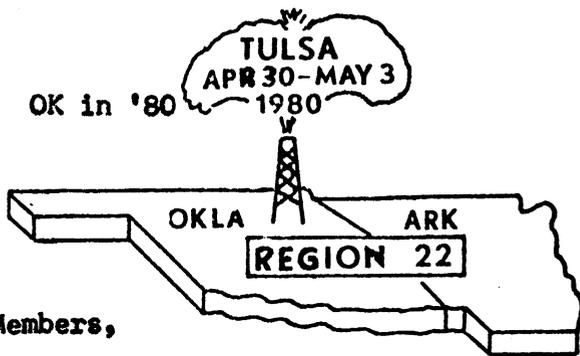
Another rainy day - with "showers of blessings". I should finish planting my iris seeds, but somehow it seems more expedient to drop you a line about the progress of our Robins program. The "Royal Four" Remontant Iris Robin took flight with the New Year. There are seven very enthusiastic "Birds" in this group, I can hardly wait for the flight to reach me.

The General Interests Robin, which started its maiden flight the first of October, is nearing the end of the second flight now. With nine members, it is amazing at the variety of information contained in a single flight of this Robin. The topics "discussed" ranged from iris culture and seed germination, all the way through to the exhibition of the fall-blooming iris in a Garden Club Show in Baltimore. May I give you a quote from that letter? In discussing the remontants Doris Simpson wrote:

"I can't make them rebloom - but I give them away and they do wonders. I gave Lloyd Zurbrigg's **ENGLISH COTTAGE** and **RED GRAPES** to a member of my Garden Club, and last Tuesday (Oct. 23rd) she won Best in Show for Horticulture at our fall show, (which features chrysanthemums) with a magnificent stalk of **RED GRAPES**; 40 inches tall, 14 buds and two large flowers (and, of course, such fragrance!) It stopped people in their tracks - most of them had never even heard of a reblooming iris. I brought the stalk home and next morning there were five flowers open. Tom took pictures of it - I hope they turn out well."

Yours "for the Birds",
Ruby Buchanan





Dear Region 4 Members,

This is your special invitation to join us in Tulsa, Oklahoma next spring for the annual convention of The American Iris Society. Dates for the convention are April 29 through May 3. Garden tours will be on May 1-3, and April 30 will be the day for section meetings and the Welcome Dinner.

Headquarters for the convention, which will be the 60th anniversary of the founding of AIS, will be the Camelot Inn at I-44 and South Peoria in Tulsa. The rates will be \$32 per night for a single and \$38 for a double. All rooms feature king sized beds, so when you have a room with two beds, it means two king sized ones. Other hotels in the vicinity of the Camelot will have lower rates, so don't let the room rates keep you from coming to Tulsa in 1980.

One of the new ideas we have for this convention is a master planting in which we planned to put one of each guest iris. We planned for 1000 different ones, and received more, so we have approximately 1100 of the various guest plants at the Philbrook Art Center. All guest plants received after the garden reached capacity were then placed in other tour gardens. We will visit Philbrook on all three days of the tour so you will have the opportunity to truly evaluate the irises growing there. This beautiful public area has a large, landscaped garden, and the center itself was once the home of a Tulsa oil man. The art center is planning an exhibit of artwork from around the world featuring irises.

On Thursday, May 1 you will enjoy our City and Country Day. At this time we will visit two gardens to the south of Tulsa in the wooded and hilly areas around Okmulgee and Bixby in Creek Indian Country. You'll see the Hickory Hill Garden of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Heathcock and the garden of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Lack. We will also visit the garden of Mrs. C. E. Kenney in south Tulsa along with the Philbrook planting.

Friday, May 2 is Oil Country Day. Tours on this day will be in Tulsa and in oil rich Osage County. This was once the Osage Indian Nation, and this group of people was considered to be the wealthiest on earth. The Tulsa gardens you will see belong to Mr. Cleo Cox and Mrs. L. R. McLane. In Osage County you will visit the Rhodeside Garden of Mr. and Mrs. Don Rhodes and Vicky Cox. This gorgeous garden is on the shores of Lake Keystone which is a part of the vast Arkansas River Navigation system. Of course, there will be another visit to Philbrook.

On Saturday, May 3, Cowboy and Indian Day is scheduled. Tours will go to the west of Tulsa to Pawnee and Stillwater. Stillwater is the home of the Oklahoma State University Cowboys, and Pawnee is the former capital of the Pawnee Indian Nation. In Stillwater you will visit the garden of Mrs. Virginia Mathews and in Pawnee you'll see the Wild-wood Gardens which were designed, planted, and tended by Ron Mullin on land belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Maltsberger. Pawnee is in the hilly terrain which surrounds the Arkansas River while Stillwater is in the area where the plains and the vast wheat fields begin. Philbrook will have a final chance to show off its collection of irises, and you should return to the hotel in time for a rest before the evening's festivities.

Tulsa is served by American, Braniff, Continental, Delta, Frontier, and TWA. Transportation is available at the airport for getting to the Camelot.

Tulsa is easy to reach via automobile with Interstate Highways and turnpikes coming into the city from every direction.

Early registrants will have the opportunity to win one of the metal plant stands which features an iris design. Early registrants will also find that the registration fee is considerably lower than it will be at a later date. It is very important that we know early approximately how many will be attending. Bus companies seem to be harder to deal with every year.

Members of the Convention Committee have worked hard to raise enough money so that we can have a low registration fee in this day of inflation. We think we have accomplished that goal. See the January, 1980 AIS BULLETIN for the registration fee.

On Wednesday evening the Camelot will host a wine and cheese party at poolside preceding the Welcome Dinner. Several special things are planned during the evening as we show you our pride in Oklahoma. The Awards Dinner on Saturday will carry out a Camelot theme, and it is our hope that our convention will be like Camelot--perfect in every way.

Everyone always wonders what type clothing to take with them to the convention each year, and answering that question for Oklahoma is next to impossible. Will Rogers is credited with saying that if you don't like our weather, just wait a minute. It isn't actually that changeable, but we can tell you only that it PROBABLY will be warm. We have pleaded for no rain or other inclement weather during your visit here, so let's all think positively.

Luncheons for the three days are not definitely set other than the fact that lunch on two days will be in Tulsa and on the third day it will be at the Kenneth Kelley ranch near Pawnee. A special gift awaits everyone at the Pawnee luncheon, and you

will also have the opportunity to see steam engines from the past and long horned cattle. Mr. Kelley is president of the National Steam Engine Association. Mrs. Kelley and Mrs. Lorraine James are working overtime in preparation for this event where all the food will be home grown and prepared. You'll be getting just a hint of Oklahoma hospitality.

We would like nothing better than to have you as our guests in 1980. Oklahoma is probably nothing like you have it pictured. Yes, we still have our football team, cowboys, Indians, oil wells, and wind, but we do NOT have only flat, treeless plains nor are our cities just cowtowns. Come see for yourself and meet some of the friendliest people in the world. We think Oklahoma is O.K., and we hope you will put your O.K. on OKLAHOMA 80! We will be expecting you!

Sincerely,

Ronald Mullin
Convention Chairman

DO IT YOURSELF MARKERS

Henry S. Cowell, Jr.

Several years ago we "got into" iris in a big way. That year we picked up a great number of named iris, but we were not able to quickly locate marker tags.

What we did, and later found several others had done, was make our own from used venetian blind slats. Apartment houses are a good source for these. The first step is to disassemble and wash the slats. Cut each end at the cord slot, taper your cut so as to make a blunt but pointed end. The center portion can be apportioned to make suitable sized markers. Tin snips or a

pair of old scissors work well to cut and trim markers.

A dymo labelmaker can be reasonably purchased. Print out the name of the iris, or for that matter any plant you wish to identify, peel the backing off the tape and stick it on the top part of the marker. The last step will waterproof your marker. A light coat of Polyurethane Liquid Plastic applied with a brush over the tape will seal out moisture. For one or two markers I have even applied it with my finger.

For readability I have found that the black tape makes the best marker as the cut letters are in white. Since tapes come in seven colors one can use different colors to indicate the main coloration of the flower or to classify as to Tall Bearded, Siberian, Dwarf, Rebloomers, and so forth.

The use of numbered markers will be of help to identify a particular plant useful when a rhizome is planted in the wrong bed, you promise a friend a particular plant or for other reasons. After transplanting time the markers can be reused.

Note: We welcome Mr. Cowell as a new contributor. He and Mrs. Cowell were at the Fall Regional Meeting, and your editor enjoyed their company very much. ED.

DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSCAST-MARCH 20

COMMENT ON THE "SPECIAL ONES"

Nannie Paquet

I could write a long list of beautiful irises, they were unusually lovely last year. The ones I especially liked were, PINK PALACE, MARY FRANCES, PRETTY PLEASE, FASHIONABLE PINK, SHAFT OF GOLD, QUEEN OF HEARTS, DARK ALLEY, STUDY IN BLACK, STARRING ROLE, SYMPHONETTE, QUIET ISLE, PARIS OPERA, GYPSY BELLE, HOMECOMING QUEEN, RADIANT SUMMER, SUNDAY CHIMES, DRURY LANE and CHARTREUSE RUFFLES.

Note: Your Editor can attest to the quality of Nannie's bloom last year. I stopped by on my way to Smithfield primarily to see Nannie, and incidentally to see her 1979 introduction and her seedlings. Her garden looked wonderful (you realize that Nannie is well up in years and does all her own work.) I was impressed by her PINK PALACE '79 and several seedlings which she has kindly sent me to guest.

ED.

WHAT A ROUND ROBIN IS

Ruby Buchanan

By definition a Robin is a batch of letters passing more or less continuously around a prescribed circuit from member to member of a group sharing a common interest. This interest may be specific, as in Remontant Iris, or Hybridizing or Species, or of General interest Regionally. Each circuit or flight begins and ends with a volunteer Director for each Robin. You need not be a brilliant letter writer to join -- since genuine interest, a sharp eye, a good vocabulary and common sense are most valuable to a Robin. A keen sense of humor and respect for the other persons' opinions may help, too.

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