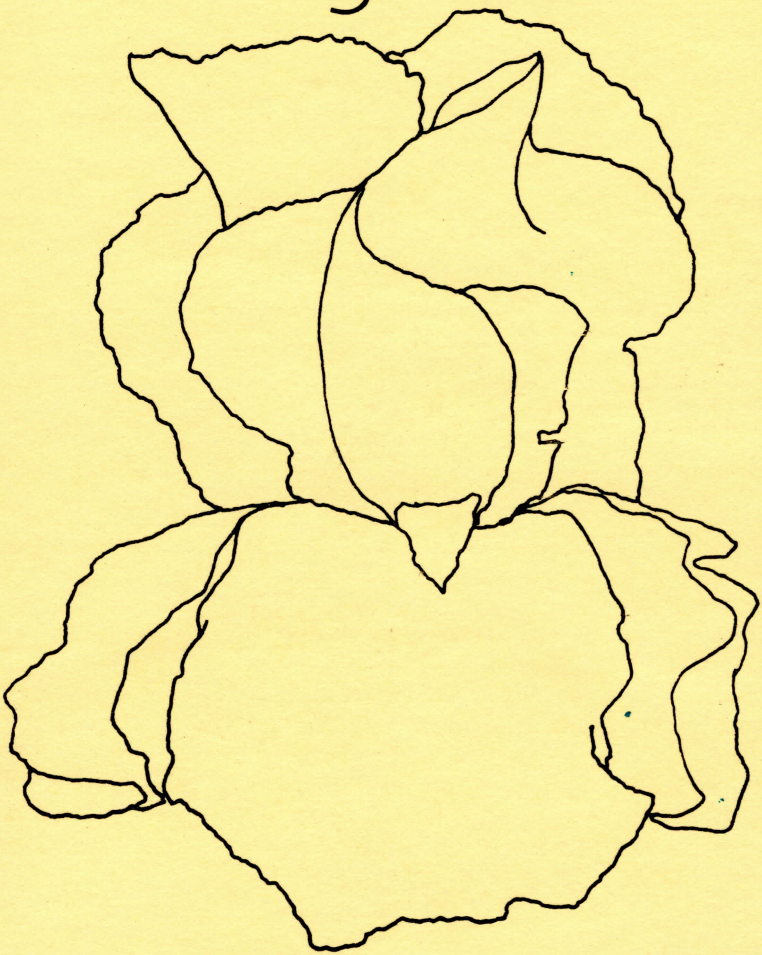
NEWSCAST

A.I.S. – reg. 4



spring '81

vol. 23
no. 2

MEET OUR NEW R.V.P.
by
Maynard E. Harp,

CLAIRE B. BARR of Stevenson, Maryland, is the ninth Regional Vice President of Region 4. CLAIRE, as she is affectionally known has hundreds of Irisarian friends, regionally and nationally.

CLAIRE BRYANT was born November 18, 1923 in Glasgow, Kentucky. She moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1932. In 1940 she was valedictorian of the Bowling Green High School. She attended Western Kentucky Teachers College, now Western Kentucky University, until late 1942. In December 1942 she became the bride of Lt. William Edward Barr. They lived in Louisville and southern California (army) until Bill went overseas in February, 1944.

Claire then returned to college from which she graduated in June 1945. History was her major. She was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. After the war they resided in Bowling Green until 1953, and then in New York for a year, moving to Baltimore in the summer of 1954. Their delightful home in Stevenson, suburban Baltimore, is in the beautiful Green Spring Valley. It is surrounded by their well maintained gardens with hundreds of varieties of iris, roses, daffodils, hemerocallis, other flowering plants, many boxwood and numerous shrubs and trees. In addition, they have a splendid greenhouse maintained continuously with exotic tropical plants. The Barr gardens will be on tour during the 1982 Region 4 Spring Convention.

Claire and Bill are both charter members of the Francis Scott Key Chapter of Region 4, and of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society, which encompasses the Chapter. Claire is a past chairman of the Chapter, and was at its helm when it hosted the Region 4 Spring Convention in 1976.

As assistant to Dr. Epperson during his terms as Regional Vice President, Claire was Regional Program Chairman and arranged for the various regional meetings, including those held in October. High marks were given for her liaison with the local sponsors of those meetings.

Claire was Chairman of the Francis Scott Key accredited Iris bench show in 1980 and is Chairman of the show to be held May 23, 1981 at Watsons' Garden Center, Lutherville, Maryland. At the 1980 exhibit the Barrs were awarded Best of Show with VANITY, and the Sweepstakes.

The Barrs have hosted many Iris meetings in their spacious home, both local and regional. They have been regular attendants of A.I.S. National Conventions and in recent years have been an official part of them. Each of them carries a camera at the Iris gatherings and they have an extensive library of Iris slides. They have given, and are currently giving, numerous illustrated Iris lectures to groups.

Claire is a past secretary of Region 4, and has been an accredited A.I.S. judge for six years. She has been an official judge of the accredited Iris exhibits in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Before becoming a judge she assisted in Iris shows as judges' recording secretary, and as Apprentice Judge. As a member of the Maryland Daffodil Society she has served as Chairman of their show, and has won some blue ribbons. She is also an active member of the Hardy Garden Club.

The Barrs are members of the American Horticulture Society with national headquarters at Mt. Vernon, Virginia on the Potomac River in Region 4. At the request of Leon Wolford, then president of A.I.S., she has coordinated the planting of Iris donated by Iris breeders

in these Riverfarm Gardens of American Horticulture Society.

When Claire accepts any position it is certain the responsibilities of that position will be assumed to the fullest extent. She is a volunteer member of the Board of Managers, and Secretary 1976-81, of Pickersgill Aged Women's and Aged Men's Home. When the attendants of the Home went on strike, Claire performed any chore necessary for the continued operation of the Home.

Claire is an active member of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Garrison Forest, Owing Mills, Maryland. She served on its Vestry 1962-72, and has been Chairman of its Altar Guild with the many detailed requirements of that position since 1975.

The Barrs have three children, Berenice (Berri) Cody, Sebastopol, California; Bill, Jr., Lutherville, Maryland; and Allen, New York City; and of prized importance, one grandchild, William III. Berri and her husband, Don, are A.I.S. members of Region 14. Bill Jr. and Barbara and their son, William III, are members of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society. Little Bill III is a Youth Member.

Claire has a quiet, pleasant, intense attitude toward life, with a modest exuberance which tends to inspire all those who know or meet her. She is an excellent administrator. She is punctual. If she schedules a meeting to start at 8 PM she has everything in place ready to start the meeting at that time. She is generous, thorough, kind, diplomatic, gracious, considerate and tolerant. As a last resort, when a situation requires, she can be firm.

Her varied interests include gardening, reading, travel, piano for pleasure, and

bowling. Travels of the Barrs include trips to Bermuda, the Virgin Islands, Europe and from coast to coast in our United States. In the fall of 1980, they had completed a tour of southern Italy and were safely home only two weeks before the terrible earthquake in that same area.

Region 4 will flourish with the leadership of CLAIRE B. BARR.

TROUBLE WITH THE DOUBLE-STICK

You will note that the January issue of NEWSCAST came out marked "APRIL" on the cover. When getting out NEWSCAST these many moons, it had been my habit to change the information on a former cover to fit the current issue. This was done by printing the correct information on slips of paper and taping them over the old information with double-stick tape. Somehow, in handling the last issue, the printer apparently dislodged the slip marked "JANUARY" so we ended up with an "APRIL" issue. The printer offered to do it over but it meant taking the staples out of 400 copies of NEWSCAST, reprinting the cover and restapling. It seemed a lot of work for a relatively small error so we went on and mailed it without correction.

This mixes up the Browns in publishing their first issue. I believe they have decided to call this the "Spring" issue.

Sorry browns and folks! Please change your immediate past issue to "January".

Your Ex-editor, Rena C.

RVP'S MESSAGE
3/19/81

GREETINGS to everyone as we move into another iris season. In the January AIS Bulletin, President Hal Stahly wrote, "The more difficult a person's life becomes, the greater need there is for sanctuary. I think AIS functions, quite properly, as such a sanctuary for many of us." ("From The Desk Of The President", P.5.) In a sense, things are more difficult and more hectic for everyone these days, and as tensions mount and problems multiply, the importance of having a "sanctuary", a haven of beauty in our lives, becomes more apparent.

Now a very practical consideration comes along. Inflation is a fact of life; costs have gone up for indiViduals, groups, societies - no one is immune. The American Iris Society Board has resisted the need for an increase in membership dues for several years (dues have remained the same for about 10 years, while everything else was going up). Last Fall the Board and officers, recognizing that A I S could no longer operate on a sound basis under these rates, instituted a new schedule of dues reflecting a modest increase. The wonder is that it has not been necessary before. It now becomes increasingly important to enlarge the membership and promote the soundness of the organization while at the same time sharing the beauty of our world of irises with others.

I hope that each of you will make an effort to recruit at least one new member this year, but let's not stop there. Take a look at the rules for the AIS new Membership Campaign for 1981 on page 47 of the January Bulletin and set a goal. Send new member information to Reg. 4 Membership Chairman, Helen Rucker, or to me, as stated in the rules. Region 4 Robin Chairman, Ruby Buchanan, has received the AIS Membership

Certificate for Region 4 for 1980. This certificate would most appropriately have been presented to Ruby at the Spring Meeting, but as she was not going to be able to attend the meeting, the certificate was mailed to her and mention is made here.

The Membership Chairman's report last Fall, as printed in Newscast, carried the suggestion, "When members are lost by death, we ask that the Chairman please let us know. It is the best way to keep your records correct." A further suggestion has come to me, that members might wish to send Memorial Gifts to Newscast in lieu of sending flowers. This suggestion seems an excellent one. As you know, the cost of Newscast is a major item in Region 4 expenditures.

For those of you who can be in the Washington, D.C. Area during bloom season, drop in at River Farm, the headquarters of the American Horticulture Society, near Mount Vernon. The location is four miles South of the Capitol Beltway on Mount Vernon Highway. There is a new AIS planting of irises there, as described in Fred Stephenson's Domestic News in the January AIS Bulletin, pages 55-56.

The time for the Spring Meeting in Williamsburg will soon be here. Louise and Walter Smith have put much time and effort into their garden. We know it will be a beautiful experience, not only seeing the bloom, but enjoying the fragrance, which is Louise's special interest. We hope for cooperation from the weather and an exceptional bloom season. Garden judging is planned for the morning. Board Meeting, dinner, and auction are schedule for late afternoon and evening. In this way, there should be some time in the afternoon to enjoy the sights of Williamsburg. All this, of course, is for Saturday, May 9. No formal meeting is schedules for Friday evening, but whether or not you plan to stay at the Quality

Inn Fort Magruder, there will be some of us there, and it would be fun to get together in the evening.

In closing, whether or not you can make it to Williamsburg, let us hear from you with ideas about that meeting or future meetings, about Newscast, about growing irises in general, about special interests, about membership, about whatever - - but let us hear. This is what will strengthen our Region.

Claire.

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EDITOR'S PAGE

First of all, we want to thank each of you who has sent in materials for this issue of NEWS-CAST - your Newscast. As your editors, it is our hope that we can do each issue with <u>your</u> articles. Therefore, let's start right now thinking of how you can help by keeping notes of things that interest you during the bloom season. That old rule that if it interests me, more than likely it will interest others, is a good Rule to follow. Your notes of interesting things in the gardens that you visit will help you in writing your article for the next issue. Don't think that your article has to be long! We would much rather have a number of short articles of things that <u>interest you and why</u>, than we would a long discourse which might have several places for an ending, but then it goes on-and-on.....much like this paragraph!

We had planned to try a centerfold page of pictures. This did not work out for this issue. The would mean that we would have 4 single pages of pictures. Let's start for the September issue. If you will remember to take some shots in black and white during bloom season,

we can make this a reality. Color printing costs seem to be prohibitive. If you can, get shots of your Best of Show, Best Arrangement, Court of Honor and possibly the winner of the Sweepstakes, and other things of interest. We have a number of shows planned in the Region, and one picture from each show would to a long way toward filling up this picture section.

We are indebted to Mr. Cleo Palmer of Geary, Oklahoma for two articles in this issue. see note at end of the article on hybridizing. As stated in that note, we want to remember that we continually have new members of our society. These new members from time to time seem to think that most of the articles in our publications are a little too complicated for one just beginning to grow irises. Will you help us as your editors to keep these new members in mind? Then, you new members, don't fail to let us know how we can help you. If you have questions, we might be able to get these answered.

We hope the quotes from the Robin Section (we now have 3 Robins in Flight) interest you as much as we enjoyed them. Only 2 of these Robins are represented in this issue. I think the third one was delayed a couple of times and did not get back by Ruby in time. This might be in order to insist that you pass these on without delay at your house.

If you are asked to do an article, don't "pass the buck". Your editors think you can or they would not have asked. Don't wait to be invited to write. If materials pile so high that we can't use all in one issue - it won't be long until deadline for the next issue. It would be a great help to your editors to have a backlog of materials from which to choose. If your article is delayed, we will inform you.

Thanks again for helping us with this undertaking and your continued help is solicited.

SINCERELY - FRANCES & B.J.

WHAT MAKES A WINNER?
By
Elizabeth Farrar

COLOR: The color pattern should be clean, clear and harmonious. Faded flowers should not be considered under any circumstances.

SIZE: This does not necessarily mean a giant blossom. Some varieties are large, but many are medium, and some naturally small. So, the size should be normal for the variety, and should be proportionate to the stalk, both in its height and its thickness. A small flower on a thick stalk does not look pleasant, and an enormous bloom on a spindly stalk looks top heavy.

FORM: The shape of an iris, like the size, varies, and there is no one best form. The variety will influence the shape, but if a flared iris droops, its form is bad. There should be a good relationship between the standards and falls; for instance, large, ruffled standards and small narrow falls simply do not look right together. Form is often considered a matter of personal preference, but if the blossom seems in pleasant proportion to you, it probably will also to others.

SUBSTANCE: The thickness of the flower and its ability to last long are its substance. It's a quality of firmness which allows the characteristic of form or shape to be retained for a maximum period of time. A flower

with good substance will last longer, holding its shape in the show room where temperature is a factor.

FLORIFEROUSNESS: Best show bloom will have most flowers open on a stalk. Although the nicest blossom is usually the terminal or end bloom, it isn't a must to have this bloom. A stalk with several flowers would be preferable, if the top bloom has faded and has been carefully removed.

BRANCHING: To determine if an iris is well-branched, stand back and view it from a distance. Bloom must not only NOT crowd, but should be so placed that the open flowers do not touch. Buds should not "toe" in.

GROOMING: The specimen should be perfectly groomed. Bloomstalk and leaves may be gently cleaned with a soft cloth. Many a good speciman has been marked down because the leaves were spotted, dirty or showed disease or insect damage. The flowers themselves should be inspected for fading tendencies. Remove all that are not in good condition and neatly fold the spathes back into place. You are not penalized for neatly removed flowers, but you are for broken or damaged buds or open flowers.

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ATTENTION CHAIRMEN:

Please furnish your editors with the name of the person who will be acting as your Chapter Reporter for the coming year. Thanks

MORE ABOUT MEDIANS

By

Jean M. Hoffmeister, Median Chairman

Hopefully you have begun a Median Iris Garden (see Reg. 4 Newscast, April 1979) and have found a great satisfaction and love for the stalwart early bloomers. Besides being adaptable to many areas of the garden, they prolong the all too-short iris season.

Here is a list of some updated Standards and Intermediates which flourish in our garden and will in yours with reasonable care. Incidentally, we have never had any signs of the obnoxious borer in our Median beds which is a definite plus-sign in favor of adding more Medians in your iris plantings.

STANDARD DWARFS

SAPPHIRE JEWELS:(Hamblen '78): Blue-violet self, deeper toned at haft.

AXIOM: (Hager '77): Lavender blue plicata with domed standards.

POPCORN:(Hager '77): Pure flaring white.

LOLLIPOP:(Hager '78): Deep velvety red.

LEMON TANG:(Hager '77): Lemon self.

MICHAEL PAUL:(W.Jones '78): Very deep purple self.

BLOOD MONEY:(Nichols '77): S.gold, F.gold with maroon halo.

APRIL ANTHEM:(Nichols '79): Ivory with chartreuse spot on beard.

FINE TASTE:(Nichols '79): S.creamy yellow, F. white with chartreuse area on falls.

GALLEON GOLD:(Schreiner '77)A S.gold, F.darker gold. Blue beard.

FORTUNE COOKIE: (Schreiner '78): Pink self with deeper spot on falls.

LITTLE PANSY: (Schreiner '76): Lilac self with deep pansy spot on falls.

NANNY: (Schreiner '78): Rose lilac with falls deeper in color and satiny finish.

CACTUS FLOWER: (Willott '76): S.light greenish yellow, F.oilve with violet beard.

INDIGO CROWN: (Willott '76): S.medium blue-violet, F. olive green

JOYFUL: (Gatty '77): Yellow bi-tone with blue beard.

INTERMEDIATES

SILENT STRINGS: (Dyer '79): Ruffled lt.blue.

SHORT DISTANCE: (Gatty '79): Flared medium light blue

POT LUCK: (Hager '77): Yellow ground plicata heavily marked dark mulberry.

LULLABY ISLE: (T.Martin '78): White self.

SHAMPOO: (Messick '77): Ruffled brown-gold self, no so well received by everyone.

CONFRONTATION: (Palmer '76): S. pale lavender, F. pale lav. overlaid tanned yellow.

MARTY: (W.Jones '78): S.lavender deeper at base; F. lav. deeper at tangerine beard.

OKLAHOMA BANDIT: (Nichols '78): Ruffled metallic tawny gold with claret based standards, claret washed falls.

VIBRANT SPRING: (M.Rogers '75): Rosy red violet self.

MIDNIGHT STROLL: (C.Palmer '76): S.purple, F. dark purple & deeper spot.

The Medians in these lists are exceptionally beautiful and among the strongest growers in our garden. You may expect the most of these irises and be completely rewarded. You'll have variety of color to enliven and brighten your garden for a long season. TRY SOME!

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FOR YOUTH MEMBERS

A challenge has been issued to you for a Japanese iris seed germination contest. Seeds to be furnished by Mrs. Ruby Buchanon, 113 Southoak Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C., and instructions have been sent to each AIS Youth Member of Region 4.

Contest will end on Aug. 15, 1981, and the Youth with the largest number of living seedlings will receive two named Japanese Iris. The runner-up will receive one named variety.

Remember that all those "improved varieties" which sound so tempting in their catalog descriptions are just "named seedlings".

Why not join the fun and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to try your hand at growing Japanese Iris, at a sizeable savings to your allowance?

Perhaps you would like to try some Siberian seedlings also. If so, drop me a card.

Mrs. Flossie Nelson, YOUTH CHAIRMAN
109 South Carolina Avenue,
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
Henry S. Cowell, Jr.

Now that Spring is here and we are able to get our hands in the dirt, and get our Iris beds in shape our thoughts turn to the coming show:

May 2 - Charlotte Chapter - Eastland Mall, Charlotte

May 9 - Cabarrus Chapter - Carolina Mall Concord

May 9 - Region IV - Williamsburg, Virginia

May 14 - Hendersonville Chapter - Asheville Mall, Asheville

May 16 - E. N.C. Chapter - Holly Hill Mall Burlington,N.C.

Month of June - Hendersonville Chapter is putting on an Educational Exhibit in Asheville Library.

Congratulations to Nancy Karriker and her group in putting on an accredited show in the Concord Area. Best wishes for a good show, and in stimulating interest in growing iris.

Our Sympathy to the loved ones of the members in the Hendersonville Area who have passed into that Garden where no weeds grow.

The Hendersonville Chapter is to be commended for their efforts in putting on the Educational Display. Let us hope and wish them well for a great increase in interest in Iris in that area.

An Iris Auction is planned for the 4th week of July. We need a place in theCharlotte Area for this Auction. Any offers? Lavada Reese (Brevard) is growing special irises for auction, DEEP FIRE, LOUDOUN CAMEO, COPPER CLASSIC, NICKELODEON, and many others.

New W.N.C. Members:

Mrs. Charles Neighbors, 120 S.Carolina Avenue, Hendersonville, N.C. 28739

Mrs. Manie Osteen, Rt 2, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743

LOOKING TOWARD SPRING

By

Nannie J. Paquet

As I sit at my desk and look out the window I see a bleak February landscape. The grass is all dried up and dead-looking, limbs of trees all naked. I've been reading all Winter and am getting tired of reading. I am getting restless. I want to get outside!

I am looking toward Spring. I don't have to look far because the first signs of Spring are appearing. Crocus, hyacinths, daffodils and tulips are up. Soon the grass will be green and leaves will cover the trees.

I suppose that one of life's wonders is the capacity of a human being to "look forward" to something.

I want to be outside cleaning off dead leaves and stirring up the soil, and dreaming of the beautiful flowers soon to come. I think of Spring as a new start, a new future. I have slowed down - old age has overtaken me. When I go to bed at night I think of all the things I didn't get done to-day. It seems when Spring comes, everything needs to be done at once and one person just can't do it all.

This year I plan to go to St. Louis for the AIS Convention and I'll have to leave just when my own irises are at about peak bloom. Some will bloom that I've never seen in bloom and they will be gone before I get back. I wish I could be in two places at the same time.

Since we've had such a cold Winter I wonder if lots of bloom has been killed. Some of the irises I bought last year and the year before, should bloom this year. I surely do hate to miss my own bloom.

Among those I have that I've never seen bloom here are: SONG OF NORWAY, EMANUEL, LEMON CROWN, LAKE PLACID, SANTANA, CHANTEUSE, CATALYST, CAPILIGHT, FREEDOM ROAD, MUTED MELODY, PEARL ISLAND, DEFT TOUCH, HOMECOMING QUEEN, and many others.

I am getting so crippled with arthritis and don't look to be able to make another trip to an AIS Convention, so while I can still get about, I do want to go to this one. It will be my last, I suspect.

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BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

The Spring season will open for us with the Region 4 Meeting in Williamsburg, May 8 to 10. We are looking forward to seeing Louise & Walter Smith's lovely garden, and do wish the best of weather to them.

The following weekend, May 16 & 17, should find the Roanoke and Salem gardens at their peak. Had it not been for the National Convention in St. Louis, we would have had our official Spring Meeting this week, but as some members will be away at National, our Spring Meeting will be the following week, May 24, in Blacksburg and Radford, featuring the Nelson Price garden and Lloyd Zurbrigg gardens. This would be an ideal time for our friends in North Carolina to slip up and be with us. Nelson's garden was truly fabulous last year, and Lloyd's gardens will have many hundreds of seedlings in addition to the collection of named varieties.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY REPORT
(AIS AFFILIATE)

by

Carol S. Warner, President

Francis Scott Key Iris Society held its winter meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Barr on Saturday, February 7,1981. Mr. Richard Sparling gave a slide program on his median display garden in New Jersey and the formation of his new garden here in Maryland.

One item of discussion at our last two meetings has been the appearance of a new iris pest called "ear wigs". They are shiny black bugs about 1" long with pinchers on both ends. We found that they eat holes in the heels of the iris rhizomes. We are securing pamphlets from the Agricultural Extension Service for each member in the hope that these can be controlled. Last year was the first time we noticed them and it would be interesting to find out if other parts of the region were affected.

F.S.K. is planning a median garden tour approximately April 25th, (date depending on when peak bloom is expected). Several gardens will be open at scheduled times and car pools arranged. F.S.K. members will receive details in their next newsletter.

Show Chairman, Claire Barr, has been working hard planning our show, "IRISES 'ROUND THE CLOCK" which will be held Saturday, May 23rd at Watson's Garden Center on York Road in Lutherville. It will be a variety/cultivar show and will include horticulture and artistic divisions and educational exhibits. Entries will be received from 8:00 - 10:30 AM. The show will be open to the public from 1:30 - 5:30 PM.

Our sale will also be held at Watson's on Saturday, July 18th from 10:00 until sold out.

NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY
(AIS AFFILIATE)
J.D. Stadler

On July 1, 1980, the North Carolina Iris Society was accepted by AIS as an affiliate. It is my sincere desire for this to set a future trend of growth, interest, and personal involvement in North Carolina. In the past year, NCIS enjoyed a 33 percent increase in membership. This was success beyond even my optimistic dreams for one year. Could a 33 percent increase in 1981 be possible??

Plans for the Spring 1981 meeting was to be held in the Hendersonville area with several gardens to be toured. Also to be included was a special seedling bed from North Carolina hybridizers. Due to much sickness in the hosting area, I regret that we must cancel and reschedule the Spring meeting. Eastern North Carolina Chapter has graciously agreed to incorporate the iris show with the NCIS meeting. This is to be held at the Holly Hill Mall in Burlington on Saturday, May 16th. All are invited to bring show stalks and attend the meeting and tour of local gardens immediately following the show.

The Summer meeting and auction will be held at the Stadler home at a date to be decided at the Spring meeting. This will also be the site of Spring 1982 meeting.

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PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

With the iris season coming up, please send me copies of any publicity you receive - pictures of you - your garden or anything interesting. I will have a report for the next issue.

Rena Crumpler, Chairman

A NEW TANGENT FOR THE NEW DECADE

Lloyd Zurbrigg

Interest in the so-called Space Age iris has been increasing, and a number of catalogues are now listing them, including the Melrose Garden. These iris are characterized by an extra petaloid part on each fall, usually extending outward from underneath the beard. This may take the form of a horn, a spoon, or a flounce, or even a trumpet.

The late Lloyd Austin was the pioneer in this field. Many of his introductions, particularly the later-introduced ones, were not thoroughly hardy here in the East, and they were almost all very narrow in the haft, and lacking in good form and heavy substance. After his death, interest in this type of iris seemed to wane. For the writer, interest was kept alive by the Austin Space-Age Robins, begun by Henry Rowlan of Little Rock.

The extra petaloid parts seem to be recessive. When this type of iris is crossed to a "normal" iris in most of the seedlings no trace of a horn, let alone a flounce, is shown. Some "normal" iris, however, carry the factor for the extra parts, and thus they may appear in the first generation, albeit rather rarely. Hybridizers have been using some of the very best "normal" iris in crosses with the Space-Age varieties, and have been greatly improving the form and substance of the latter, so that it seems certain that some very beautiful novelties are bound to appear in this eccentric type of iris in the near future.

The writer grew a great many of the early Space-Age iris from Lloyd Austin, and has been dabbling with a few crosses each year for some twenty years. Only in the past five years has anything exciting taken place. By mixing in

some remontancy, the hardiness of the seedlings has been increasing, and before long, hopefully, some remontant iris with flounces and spoons should come into being. GLORIOUS TWO-TIMER was an Austin variety that was remontant in California, but it was of the type that turned many iris lovers against the reblooming iris. Moreover, it did not remont here in Virginia, - at least not in Radford.

Not a majority of the judges seem to welcome the Space-Age iris, but this writer firmly believes that they will improve so remarkably that they will become very popular, = just as some of the chrysanthemums of unusual form have become accepted and welcomed for their addition of variety to the garden and to the show-bench. In the meantime, they provide a very exciting challenge to the iris hybridizer.

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HYBRIDIZING FOR THE BEGINNER

Cleo Palmer

First, it is necessary to know the important parts of the flower involved in making a cross, and where to find these parts. The stamens are just above the beard, next to the style-arm and it bears the pollen. The stigmatic lip is located further up the style-arm from the tip of the stamen and just below the crests on the end of the style-arm. To make a cross, pollen is placed on the stigmatic lip's upper surface which is somewhat rough and sticky. I prefer to do this to all 3 stigmas, though one is said to give full pods. However, the two remaining are subject to being pollinated by a bee and thus spoil the purity of your cross.

Now you need to tag your cross with the parentage so you know what varieties were used. Any type of tag from retail price tags from a store, to some you make yourself out of cereal box cardboard, to plastic, will suffice as long

MEMBERSHIP SUPPLEMENT -
REGION 4 - AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

MARYLAND

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY

Mrs. Robert S. Alexander, 2712 Southern Avenue, Baltimore, Md., 21214
Mrs. Jeannette Allender, 8485 Loch Haven Blvd., Towson, Md., 21204
Mr/Mrs. Jack F. Bailey, 5300 Sweet Air Road, Baldwin, Md., 21013
Mr/Mrs. William E. Barr, 1910 Green Spring Valley Rd Stevenson, Md., 21153
Mr/Mrs. William E. Barr, Jr., 208 Melancthon Ave., Lutherville, Md., 21093
Mrs. Robert H. Beasley, Rt 1, Box 43, Leonardtown, Md., 20650
Mrs. Lee Bevans, 9109 Bowline Rd., Baltimore, Md., 21236
Mrs. Gary Black, 18535 Foreston Rd., Parkton, Md 21120
Mr/Mrs. J.Edison Brown, 9910 Magledt Rd., Baltimore, Md., 21234
Mr/Mrs. Warner K. Brown, 630 Murdock Rd., Baltimore, Md., 21212
Mr. Allen A. Burk, 322 Stinson St., Baltimore, Md 21223
Mrs. Michael J. Cook, 1016 Valewood Rd., Towson, Md 21204
Mrs. David P. Cooley, Box 41, Clements, Md.,20624
Miss Victoria R. Dorf, 841 Glen-Alen Drive, Baltimore, Md., 21229
Mrs. Peter R. Drummond, 2221 Abell Rd.,Sparks, Md.21152
Mrs. Elizabeth Eastman, 20711 Mt.Zion Rd, Freeland, Md., 21053
Mrs. Frank H. J. Figge, 4 Maryland Ave., Towson, Md.21204
Francis Scott Key Iris Society, Mrs. Andrew C.Warner, 16815 Falls Rd., Upperco, Md.21155
Mr/Mrs. Maynard E. Harp, 605 Kingston Rd., Baltimore, Md., 21212
Mrs. Lucille A. Houck, 2823 Roselawn Ave., Baltimore, Md., 21214
Mr. Walter E. Johnson, 103 Northwood Drive, Timonium, Md., 21093

Mrs. Geraldine J. Kurapka, 505 Academy Rd.,
Baltimore, Md., 21228
Dr. Frederick J. Ladd, 500 Worcester Rd.,Towson, Md 21204
Mr./Mrs. Robert Mackenzie, 804 Evesham Avenue,
Baltimore, Md., 21212
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Mr. Gerald E. Richter, 30 Fitzhugh Avenue,
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Miss Iris B. Rosenblit, 6959 Blanche Road,
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Mrs. Thomas W. Simpson, 200 Ridgemede Road,
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Mrs. Cheri G. Smith, 70 Trevanion Road,
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Mr. John N. Trudell, 566 Williamsburg Lane,
Odenton, Md., 21113
Mrs. Helen F. Walsh, 158 Liberty Street,
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Mrs. Andrew C. Warner, 16815 Falls Road,
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Mr/Mrs. H.Elberte Harrison, Rt 2, Box 62,
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Mr/Mrs. Paul L. Hoffmeister, Box 462, Neavitt, Md.,21652
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Mrs. Marie Osteen, Rt 2, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743
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* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: January 1981 - April 1981

Maryland -

Francis Scott Key -

New Member -

Mrs. Michael J. Cook, 1016 Valewood Road, Towson, Md. 21204

Chesapeake & Potomac -

Change of Listing -

Luray Garden Club, Mrs. E. L. Lippe, Linden Avenue, Luray, VA 22835

NORTH CAROLINA

Eastern North Carolina -

New Member -

Mrs. Steven Powers, 3619 Parnell Drive, Greensboro, N.C. 27405

Western North Carolina -

New Members -

Mrs. Charles Neighbors, 120 South Carolina Avenue,
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739
Mrs. Marie Osteen, Route 2, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743

Change of Listing -

Mrs. Flossie Nelson & Miss Michelle Nelson,
109 South Carolina Avenue, Hendersonville,
N.C. 28739 - (Family)

Deceased -

* Mrs. John Laughter, 120 South Carolina Avenue,
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739

HELEN RUCKER *
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

*
Note: Elsewhere in this Newscast you will note Memorials to two former members of A.I.S. and members of the local Carolina Mountains Iris Society.

In your RVP's message is a suggestion that we might like to send Memorial Gifts to our Regional Treasurer in lieu of sending flowers. This will be added income to help in the finances of the Region.

RAMBLINGS

In trying to get the jump on getting this Newscast out on time, we closed out our materials and sent them on to the printer - without the Membership List.

Then, trying to make the list fit exactly into 16 pages has not worked out too well. Perhaps our ex-Editor is laughing up her sleeve at the green-horn. I guess I cut corners too closely, but felt that we had a list long enough for this unit.

Since we have some space here on this page, let me urge you to get materials to your editors, and get them on time. For the September Issue, please get your articles on to us by August 21st. This will give us time to get the Newscast on to the printers and in the mail by early September.

We have enjoyed the contact with our membership, and especially the way you have come through with materials for the publication.

As a part of this Unit, and nothing to do with membership, we are giving a quote from Wilma Valette's book. I think some of the older folks have heard of feeding irises milk. Here -(Page MS-16)-are Wilma's directions. If too late to experiment this year, you might like to give it a try next season. The materials involved locally can be found at your local FCX.

The lack of rainfall has been a concern of farmers, gardeners, and anyone working in the soil. In this particular section of the country, we are 5 inches of rain short for this time of year. We are all hopeful that our usual April Showers will help bring the average up somewhat.

Keep the articles coming!

Ed.

"MILK FED IRIS"

Dissolve 1 lb of dry milk in 5 qts of water; then dilute each quart with two gallons more water. Apply it once in spring as soon as growth becomes active, again when the buds push out, and a third time shortly after the blooming season is over, and perhaps again in late October. Use about a pint to an ordinary sized one-year clump, or more in proportion for larger ones. An agricultural brand of dried milk from the feed store, the kind used for calves, costs about a third as much as milk from the grocer; even sweepings from a processing plant where dried milk is made will do, though each pound should be dissolved in a little less water, according to how much of it is dirt instead of milk - the iris won't mind at all about having a little dirt in their milk! Used too often or too strong, milk feeding may make such lush growth that rot may set in, and to be sure it does not, it is a good idea to add two tablespoons of some vetinary brand powder form aureomycin to each gallon. The two together are said to give even better results than milk alone, with NO ROT ever.....

One report was received of using milk-feeding after the big freeze "Down South" in the Spring of 1955, on one bed - but not on another, of one year plants, mostly of one rhizome each, that were "cooked almost to a mush by the freeze". It was applied immediately after the freeze, with a feeding of complete fertilizer on both beds about May 1. In two months' time the untreated bed had only ordinary increase; that of the milk-fed bed was "phenomenal"....

This same member experimented also with milk alone, and with aureomycin, and was much in favor of using both together, since, while milk alone gave large rhizomes and plenty of increase, there was a little rot, but adding "aureo" gave even better growth and increase, and no rot at all. "The two together seem to be an almost perfect diet for iris".

FROM: IRIS CULTURE AND HYBRIDIZING FOR EVERYONE,

as it will withstand at least 3 months of weathering and still be readable. What system you use to record the parentage is a personal preference, but it is a cardinal rule that the pod parent must be recorded first, such as WINTER OLYMPICS X WHITE LIGHTNING - meaning, of course, that Winter Olympics bears the pod and White Lightning's pollen was used. Place your tag around the bloom, sawing it back and forth through the spathe tissue to the base of the ovary; pull tag up very snugly and tie, so as to surround the ovary. If tied around the stalk, a later bud emerging may be pollinated by a bee and set a pod, when your cross possibly had failed, and thus have your label on it. The above method will insure that your label stays with the correct pod.

When the seeds ripen, shell them out when pod first begins to split open, and dry them for a week or 10 days. Then package and label with parentage and store until October, when it will be time to plant them.

About the time of the first frost for your area, and for the next three weeks or so, would be an ideal time to plant your seed. How you space your seeds will depend on how you plan to handle the young seedlings. If planted very close together or on top of one another, they should be transplanted early, three to six weeks after emerging in the Spring. If planted further apart, seedlings could be left to form larger plants before transplanting. They can be planted several inches apart and be left to bloom without transplanting, but this makes for a larger area to weed when plants are tiny. Water well after planting and mulch at least lightly to insure the soil doesn't dry out from this time until seedlings are up. Should they become dry at any time after planting, germination is likely to be poor to nil and thus require another year. In the meantime, many seeds will

decay. Should the soil become too wet and soggy, this condition is equally as bad as allowing the seed to dry out. In colder areas with much snow, this is more of a problem than drying out. So keep moist, but not soggy, and expose to Freezing and Thawing temperatures. This is necessary for germination. Seeds may be planted in the open ground, pots, flats, or a cold frame - whichever may be your preference.

Transplant seedlings 8 - 12" apart, if space permits, and water well. Keep well watered for a month and they should be off and growing by that time. If well grown, a high percentage should bloom the next Spring.

Now you must select those you like and want to keep while they are in bloom, discarding all others. Here you must learn to be highly selective and very observant of all traits of the plant - not just the pretty color of the flower. Note the way the standards are positioned - open or closed - domed and overlapping, or pointed and entertwined; rigidity of the midrib and whether outer tips flop in the wind; degree of ruffling, substance, shape, veining if any. Likewise observe the traits of the falls. How is the width of the fall, are hafts wide or narrow or severly marked; is fall overly long for width; degree of flare or arching; or is it pendulant; heavy or poor substance; ruffling and pleating; veining, spots or signals. Study other visible traits, such as bud count, branching and placement, stalk, foliage, vigor or lack of it, increases, etc. Then ask yourself if the overall effect is pleasing and good in the majority of these visible traits. If so, it may be worth observing for another year or two, and possibly even naming - or maybe INTRODUCING.

Select your Parents with the utmost care and consideration of all their traits, not just the color of the flower and other more obvious traits. Try to pair good traits in both parents, as the resulting seedlings will be a combination

of the traits found in the parents, both good and bad. The most desirable traits tend to be recessive, whereas undesirable traits often are dominant. Hence these traits show up even if present in only one parent. Whereas recessive traits need to be present in both parents to show in only a few of the resulting seedlings.

Good records are a "must" if you want to do more than just create a few new plants. They contain the information that may be necessary years later to understand what happened way back when you first began.

Try a few crosses this year and enjoy the thrill of seeing something no one else has ever seen before. GOOD LUCK!

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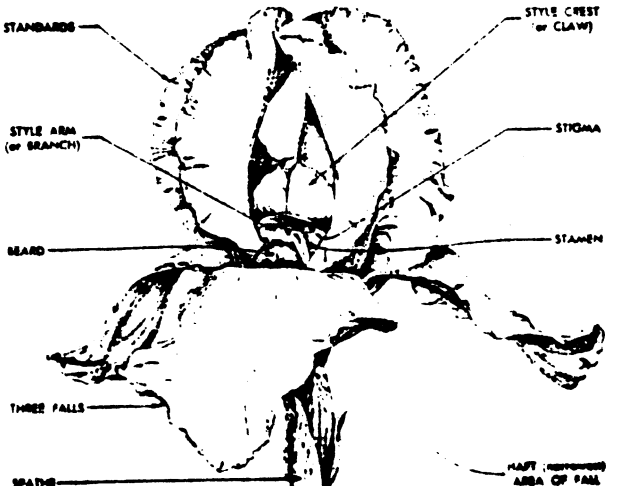
Editor's Note: Cleo Palmer is the owner of Palmer's Iris Garden of Geary, Oklahoma. He belongs to one of the Robins of which I am also a member. His iris, TWIST OF FATE, won the President's Cup at the Tulsa Convention last year.You probably noted in our Jan. 1981 Bulletin that his SNOW FESTIVAL won top award in International Dwarf Iris Competition, Vienna 1980.

A suggestion was made that more materials be included for new members and beginners with iris. We hope this article will help meet that need.



USEFUL CHEMICALS FOR IRIS
CLEO PALMER

Two or three chemicals are about all that are needed to take care of most all the iris rot problems. For soft rot, the best I have found is Streptomycin Sulphate. Sometimes this is called Agrimycin 17 or Agri-Strep. This may cost several dollars per ounce, but very economical in the long-run, as it takes only ½ tsp. per gallon of water. A spreader and sticker makes the spray more effective. Use a commercial one or make your own by using 1 tsp. of liquid detergent, and 1 tsp. of sugar dissolved in water, to each gallon of spray. This is not necessary for soft rot control, as much as it is for the leaf disease sprays, since the leaves tend to be oily on the surface, thus water beads up and runs off. The detergent cuts the film and spreads the spray out evenly over the surface. The sugar tends to hold the spray film on the leaves after water evaporates. Do not overdo the sugar to the point that bees will be attracted to the plants and try to lick off the spray and be poisoned.

For Crown Rot - Mustardseed Fungus, or whatever you call it, Terrachlor seems to be the most effective I have tried. A spraying in the Spring about the time bloom begins and one in the Fall - roughly 8-10 weeks before frost, usually gives good control, at least here in OK. In more humid areas it may be necessary to spray more often. Terrachlor also seems to have some effect toward controlling leaf diseases caused by fungus spores. Streptomycin Sulfate should be effective for bacterial leaf blight, but you would need to know and recognize the difference between that caused by bacteria and that caused by fungus. These two sprays are compatable and can be used together in one spray mix if desired. For control these would need to be put on before the disease is present, as a preventive, and reapplied every week or 10 days and after

each rain.

The third spray chemical would be Benomyl or Benlate. The former is the pure chemical and is the active ingredient in the latter. It is a systemic fungicide and is taken up through the leaves into the cell sap of the plant. It is effective for 2 - 8 weeks, and in some cases it has some degree of curative power in clearing up infections already present when it is applied.

Streptomycin Sulphate will stop the very rapidly spreading "slime rot" which sometimes appears during bloom season, during very rainy periods. This is also supposed to stop soft rot, without cleaning out the rot, during rainy periods, if the area is well drenched with a spray mixture.

For weed control Treflan Granules dug into the upper 1 - 2" of soil usually gives a high degree of control, although a few weed-types may not be controlled. It will not affect the perennial weeds already present, it prevents weed seed from germinating. It can be used at a rate higher than recommended for weed control without injury to the iris. It may be injurious if grossly overdone, such as 4 - 5 times the recommended rate, but I have noted none at twice the rate. It generally gives about one year of control, but may tend to give longer control with continued use. Dacthal is also safe, but does not last as long - usually 4 months - but at the minimum rate quite a few weed species may come through it. The rate can be exceeded by 3 times without injury to iris, and will give nearly a year of relatively complete control. With Treflan you can cultivate the soil which is said to improve the control; whereas with Dacthal, disturbing the surface may allow weeds to break through the barrier and grow.

Iris use nitrogen, phosphate, and potash at a 1-4-4 ratio. So a 1-4-4 fertilizer, such as 6-24-24 or 12-48-48 or any other similar combination will give them a balanced diet, if growing in a moderate to poor soil. In rich soils

nitrogen may make for problems if added in more than a very small amount. Iris are heavy feeders and feed mostly in the upper inches of the soil, so can deplete it rapidly. In moderate to poor soil, they can stand as much as 1 cup per 11 sq.ft. of 6-24-24 per year. However it is best to make a number of smaller applications than one big application. A light feeding every 2 - 4 weeks from early to mid March (in the South) through August. That will leave time for the rhizomes to harden off naturally by the time it turns quite cold.

Rootone mixed with water and used as a dip or a short soak just prior to transplanting, may give you much quicker established plants. Mulching around the rhizome is also a big help in the heat of Summer, but may be troublesome in wet and humid areas.

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REGIONAL MEETING - WILLIAMSBURG

You will get the details of the Regional Meeting in Williamsburg in a separate mailing. Headquarters will be at the Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center. I understand that nothing is planned for Friday night.

Saturday A.M. - Judges Training in the garden of Louise and Walter Smith.

Box Lunch.

Afternoon free to explore Old Williamsburg.

Evening Session at the Fort Magruder, with Board Meeting, Banquet and Regional Auction.

We know everyone will enjoy the beauty of Spring in Williamsburg.

MR. FRANK E. CHOWNING GIVES RUBY BUCHANAN SOME POINTERS ON LOUISIANA IRIS SEED IN LETTER BELOW - SHARED WITH REGION 4 BY RUBY AND FRANK

- -

Frank E. Chowning,
2110 Country Club Lane,
Little Rock, Ar., 72207
August 6, 1979

Dear Mrs. Buchanan:

I have your letter of 8/1/79 re. germination of Louisiana iris seed. While you do not say so in your letter, I suspect the Louisiana Iris seed which you have been trying to germinate have come to you from "out-of-state" in a very dry condition. Once LA seed have been allowed to become dry they are very hard to germinate. I have known them to lie in their seed containers for 4 or 5 years before they would begin to germinate; in fact, not until the corky covering has rotted away.

Louisiana Iris seed should be gathered by pulling the whole seed pod loose from the stalk while the pod is still partially green and the seed should not be removed from the pod until you are ready to plant, and within the hour after they are shelled out of the pod they should be planted in the pots or flats and then sprinkled gently until thoroughly soaked. They should then be placed in the shade (against the north side of a building is ideal) and the bed kept moist but not waterlogged, until the seed germinates.

It takes from 80 to 90 days for the seeds to mature in the pods; and I watch them closely (I keep a record of the date on which the flower was pollenized) and when the pod is 90 days old I gather them, shell out the seed and plant immediately. For reasons that no one understands, some hubrids produce seed that germinate real

well (within about 60 days after they are planted), while the seed of other hybrids won't germinate a single seed until the second fall after they are planted.

Be careful to plant in a very friable soil consisting of a mixture of leaf mold, a little sharp sand, and some peat moss - so that it will never pack hard to form a crust. When the seedlings have made three leaves and are 5 or more inches tall, they are ready to transplant. However, if they reach this stage in the fall it is better to hold them in the seed pots until early spring, than to plant them in late fall because they will then be heaved out by frost and will be lost.

If one has a greehouse without heat, or a cold frame, then they can be transplanted to 6" pots after they make three leaves and by spring they will be large plants that can be transplanted to the open ground as soon as freezing weather passes - and a high percentage will then bloom that spring.

I have never had any trouble germinating the California Iris seed even when dry, but the plants don't like our hot and humid weather in July and August. I would think that they would thrive and bloom well in the Great Smoky Mountains area, where the weather is cool and rains are frequent. They might even do satisfactorily in Winston-Salem, but they don't like it in Little Rock.

I hope this will be helpful -

Cordially/

Frank E.Chowning

IN MEMORIUM
MRS. JOHN (RUBY) LAUGHTER, SR.,
by
Deborah Nelson Darnell

Mrs. Ruby Laughter passed away Dec. 29, 1980, after an extended illness.

Ruby enjoyed a quiet, modest life. Her hobbies included game hunting and fishing with her husband, John. At her demise, she was a member of both The American Iris Society and The Carolina Mountains Iris Society.

Ruby could always be found in her iris and rose gardens, and both were shared and admired by friends and neighbors. During iris season, anyone coud find Ruby, both morning and late afternoon, admiring and comparing new blossoms.

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IN MEMORIUM
DAVIS H. MILLS
Deborah Nelson Darnell

Davis H. Mills, husband or Marion Mills of Hendersonville, N.C., died Feb. 17,1981 after several years of declining health.

Dave was an active member of the N.C.Iris Society. While living in Indiana, he was a member of the Northeastern Indiana Iris Society of Region Six.

Continued -

He was a farmer, and retired to the Hendersonville Area in 1957. He was a kind and gentle man, with a warm personality and a special love for the beauty and pleasure of nature. He was a Charter Member of The Carolina Mountains Iris Society, and also has attended many meetings of the N.C. Iris Society.

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IN MEMORIUM
PAUL A. BENTZ

Paul A. Bentz of Carolina Village, Hendersonville,died at his home on Sunday, Mar.8, 1981. He was a native of Salem, Nebraska. He was an Army veteran of World War I and received his law degree at the University of Nebraska in 1928. He moved to Asheville in 1960 and to Henderson County in 1974.

He served as counsel of the Panama Canal Co, and was adviser to nine governors of the Canal Zone.

He was for many years a member of AIS. He was a Charter Member of The Carolina Mountains Iris Society, and was a past president of that society. He died at age 82.

EXCERPTS FROM REGION FOUR ROBINS

"ROYAL FOUR" - REBLOOMING IRIS ROBIN

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Radford, Va.: 11/7/80

There was a lot of bloom in late October and this week, seedlings from SISTER HELEN X I DO. One of these was a really lovely white. Surely with these and the other crosses for blue, perhaps the really blue remontant may soon appear. I devoutly hope so.....

Among the named varieties the best record has to be SUMMER HOLIDAYS. It had seven stalks in bloom on August 11th, and has never been out of bloom since. In fairness, I must admit that it did not bloom very heavily this Spring, but it is a very impressive performer.....

There was a new seedling from SKIERS' PARADISE X EARL OF ESSEX that had been frozen in the Dublin Garden, but revived amazingly well when brought into the house. The EARL gives great width of haft and heaviness of substance, plus style - but its seedlings like to wait until October before showing themselves.....

Norman Clouser, Gladstone, Va.: 11/18/80 (new to this Robin)

My interest in iris goes back to the days when, as a toddler I accompanied my dad to Farr's Nursery, where he was General Superintendent. Bertrand Farr was the first American hybridizer and prior to that, he imported the best iris from Europe, and sold them throughout the Eastern half of the United States. There were iris in our home garden, and cut iris in the house when in bloom. They were so fragrant in those days. When I bought my house, in 1948, my dad gave me 11 iris as a starter. Some were old Farr iris, such as: QUAKER LADY, AMBASSADOR, ALTA CALIFORNIA, BLACK WINGS, BLUE HERON, BLUE

SHIMMER, BLUE VELVET, CALIFORNIA GOLD, DAUNTLESS, DEPUTE NOMBLUT, and RAMSES, and these were grown proudly. He also gave me the stunning OLA KALA. How far we have come! But I still grow QUAKER LADY, which dates back to 1909. Mr. Farr liked this the best of all his originations.....

My interests cover the TB, IB, SDB, BB, SIB, and Remontants, primarily. I am growing currently over 200 varieties. I have a few Arils and MTBs. Currently I have 15 remontants. I am not too successful with them, but hope to solve the problems next year.

John Moffitt, Unionville, Va., 11/22/80.

On November 22nd I am writing this with CORN HARVEST finishing its second three blooms in my study. It went with me last week on a trip to West Virginia, and Radford, Va., where I was happy to spend time with Lloyd and Nita. And it still promises one more bloom later. This is one of the two that put up bloom for me this fall.....

Welcome, Norman, to the Robin. What you wrote about Bertrand Farr brought back memories of when, in the 1920s we were getting his new pinks. As you probably know, after 1929, I had no time to play with irises until 1970. I'd be very glad to see QUAKER LADY in bloom some time. It might satisfy my curiosity as to the size of irises I remember back then.....

Claire Barr, Stevenson, Md., 1/23/81.

Because of drought and neglect, I was not expecting rebloom last fall. On Nov. 17th Bill and I were to give a talk on iris to a local garden club. The day before I was bemoaning the fact that we had no rebloomers to take to the program. Lo, and behold! the next morning as I loaded the car with screen and projector, I saw something in the garden - a slightly frost-bitten stalk of BABY BLESSED. The damage wasn't too bad, and we took it to the program

with great delight.....

Mrs. Frank H.J.Figge, Towson, Md., 1/27/81

I was fascinated by the Robin Letters, especially the origin of Norm's interest in irises! I am so impressed by this because my beginnings were so humble in comparison. I remember Mother being so thrilled by getting a yellow iris - so different from the usual blues or purples. Hope you won't think me presumptuous with a quote from the 1959 World Of Irises, which is reinforced by the 1978 edition - the latter said that Dr. Wister called Farr the "first important hybridizer in America". And to think I had never heard of him before! Such ignorance! I just had to look him up. You all do the same. It is terrific! He used color plates for advertising and charged 50¢ and 75¢ apiece for iris. He received a gold medal for his bed of iris at the 1915 San Francisco's World Fair. (1 would love to have a rhizome of QUAKER LADY.).....

After my trip to India, I returned to find a number of irises which had been replanted in June in bloom: AHEAD OF TIMES, BROWN DUET, CEASE FIRE, GRANDVILLE, MISS SCARLETT, ORCHID CLOUD, PERFUME COUNTER, SUMMER CHARM, SUMMER SUNSHINE, SWEET SUMMER, TOUCH OF SPRING, ULTRA ECHO, JANNTY TEXAN. However, we got an early killing frost, then some good weather, which makes one a little frustrated. I have been trying to find some one who would like to get rid of their wool sox. These are supposed to be good to put over buds to protect them from a possible freeze. They don't stick to the bud and don't absorb moisture. Wool sox - anyone??!! ....

James D. Stadler, Reidsville, N.C., 2/3/81

The rebloomers did revive in the fall for some scattered bloom and many stalks were caught by a hard freeze in November. CORN HARVEST, which was planted August 1st and bloomed three weeks later, sent up two more stalks in November.

I would say this is a good performance from 1 rhizome planted in August. Also coming on later were: CAYENNE CAPERS, SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS and BESS BERGIN. Two of the smaller ones, FINE PRINT and YELLOW WARES, were found in full bud the day after the first freeze. I was taken completely by surprise, as I had not been watching these two.

Mrs. Lloyd Nelson, Balfour, N.C. - 2/23/81

I enjoyed all the Robin letters so much. Yet I shed quite a few tears - with my health as it is. I am hoping to see even a few blooms in the Spring. The doctors said in November I had about six months without treatment, and then in January, he said 5 or 6 weeks. I finally gave in to take the treatments. So far I have had three, I take my fourth one tomorrow. They are rough! But I have always been a fighter, and I do believe in Prayer. Please add me to your prayer list.....

While I was in the hospital I talked one of my doctors into growing iris, so he will try real hard to keep me alive until I have shared my iris with him.....

While in the hospital a friend brought me some "silk iris". The day I left, my doctor said: "Those iris really have held up good", and walked over to smell them, and I had to laugh. He was so embarrassed - but they were beautiful and looked "real".....

Ruby Buchanan, Winston-Salem, N.C., 3/7/81

I will have to get the early repeaters if I ever have fall bloom here. I planted four of Lloyd's last summer: NEEDLECRAFT, VIOLET CLASSIC, SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS and ENGLISH COTTAGE, but there was no fall bloom. I'll just keep hoping and trying! .....

"THE WILD ONES" - Beardless & Species Robin.

John Wood, Gaffney, S.C., 1/7/81

Doris, I think I. Tectorum will survive for you in the Baltimore area with some mulch.

Doris Simpson, Baltimore, Md., 2/3/81

My potted Louisianas have increases and new leaves 2' tall, and I surely don't want to set them back or let them freeze. They may spend the summer in their tubs and be set in the garden in early fall.....

Alma Childers, Hamlin, W. Va., 3/6/81

Mildred, look for the little I.Cristata along the drains down the mountains or hills. In this section they start blooming about the last of April.

Ruby Buchanan, Winston-Salem, N.C., 3/10/81

I failed to find any sign of my only I.Virginica seedling, but five of the seven I. Missouriensis line out last fall have survived. Both of the Iris Pseudacorus plants are growing.

There are seven of the I. Monnierii seedlings starting to grow; only one I.Biglumis alive.

My Iris Reticulata foliage is about 3" high, but no sign of the Danfordai.

Doris, I have never grown the Iris Laevigata (COLCHESTERENSIS), but I did look up the AIS Bulletin (October 1976 - 223) and agree that it is a lovely picture there.....

AS I REMEMBER

by

B.J.Brown

Our last Regional Meeting was held on May 11 & 12, 1979, at the Holiday Inn in Smithfield, N.C., with the gardens of Mrs. Milton Ogburn, Mrs. Noble Jernigan and Mrs. Loleta Powell, on tour. In reviewing our Newscasts, I found very little about this meeting, which I thought one of the best Regionals that I have attended. Therefore, this is an effort to reach back two years and try to recall some of the details of that meeting, and something of the gardens visited. I have some very good notes somewhere, but when we moved all our office files home last summer, a number of things got lost in the shuffle.

I had gone up on the afternoon of May 10th, and had the opportunity to visit the three gardens twice during the convention. On my way to Smithfield headquarters motel, I had gone by the garden of Bettie Jernigan. Bettie is in a Daylily Robin with me, and I especially wanted to visit her garden prior to the regular visit by the whole group. Bettie has a lovely setting for her garden; she is a good gardener, taking advantage of her shaded areas to grow a number of hostas and other shade-loving plants. Her iris beds, although past peak, were in good shape and still showing a fair amount of bloom. Daylilies were growing nicely near by, ready to take over when the irises were through blooming. She was growing the Regional Seedling Bed. Most of the seedlings were bloomed out or past peak. One dark purple, which I think was Alice Bouldin's #7-3-9, was still holding its own.

Among her bloom, the following named varieties were in good bloom: CRANBERRY ICE, SON OF STAR, CARVED CAMEO, SAFFRON ROBE AND VANITY. Others were in bloom, but only these are recalled to memory.

The following morning (May 11), I was able to find the Ogburn Garden. Mrs. Ogburn was a gracious hostess. I had corresponded with her in prior years, but had never met her. She gave me the grand tour, pointing a number of her own introductions which I had never seen. We had seen her LU RED in the Huntsville gardens. This had evidently caught the eye of a number of AIS members attending that convention, and it is a little different shade of red. She informed me that she was using pinks with LU RED in an effort to get the illusive true "red". She had many seedlings, most of which were bloomed out, but one white which she particularly liked was blooming nicely. This turned out to be the winner of the Seedling Award at this meeting. Among those still in bloom were: VEILED BEAUTY, LU RED (both Ogburn introductions), WINNING SPRITE, VENETIAN VANILLA and HUMDINGER.

An outstanding planting of foxglove at the edge of the iris garden was really making its own show.

I was fortunate to see Mrs. Ogburn's gallery of paintings in her attic. There were many pastoral scenes which were lovely, many portraits, and still life paintings. One portrait-type of a black mother and child was very good. The facial expression which she had captured was moving, and made me feel that this is an artist, whose work might compare to works of prominent artists of the country. These had been done solely for her own satisfaction, and I felt very special to have had the privilege of viewing them.

Following this visit, I went to the Powell Garden for a preview before the Board Meeting of the afternoon. Loleta has one of the loveliest gardens in North Carolina. I especially liked her Japanese Garden. Her hosta section is one of the best collections I have seen, and many of them are her own introductions.

Although late in the season, as mentioned previously, there was still good bloom throughout her iris plantings. Some varieties I remember were: BICENTENNIAL, LATIN LADY, BEAUTY CROWN, QUEEN OF HEARTS, FLATTERY, TREASURE FAIRE, PEACH FROST, BALLET RUFFLES: and two Louisianas: FIRST LOVE and FULL ECLIPSE.

Among the Powell introductions, of course, was the lovely ATLANTIC RIPPLES, which won the President's Cup, and rightly deserved this honor. This is really where my notes would come in handy, but, as I remember, HINT O'LEMON was blooming nicely. The stately violet, GERTRUDE WEIL; the pink with blue tones, CAROLINA DELIGHT; and the deep gold, CAROLINA GOLD. One that I wanted to see, but can't remember if it was in bloom was STRAWBERRY SENSATION - probably missed it!!

In her iris plantings are a number of companion plants, among them several varieties of dianthus. I understand that some of these are from her own crosses. A big planting of ACHILLEA (Moonshine), was really outstanding - a couple of shades lighter than the usual yellow yarrow.

In addition to all these plants were numerous perennials, annuals, shrubs, and just about anything in the plant world which you might desire, all for sale to the public. This seems like an impossibility for one family to keep this garden and nursery in A-1 condition. It is well worth your time to see and visit this garden.

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A REMINDER THAT THE DATES OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION ARE May 12th - May 16th IN SAINT LOUIS and REGION 18. DETAILS OF THIS MEETING WILL BE FOUND IN YOUR JANUARY ISSUE OF THE A I S BULLETIN AND YOUR PAST ISSUE OF NEWSCAST.

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