



NEWSCAST A.I.S.

Region 4

No. 1

Jan. '84

Vol. 26

The Vine and the branch

Perennial Gardens

IRISES:

Tall Bearded
Siberians
Louisianas
Species
Japanese

DAYLILIES

STOKESIA

DAISIES

LIRIOPE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT EITHER

B.J. & Frances Brown or Mary E. Brown

11026 Steele Creek Rd.

Charlotte, N.C. 28210

588-1788

588-3570

R V P MESSAGE FOR JANUARY, 1984

The message is being written Christmas D plus 1, 1983 - the coldest Christmas Season that this section has any record of, and certainly the coldest that I can recall. As you know, the whole nation is victim to this unusual temperature. Our deep concern is for sections of the country that have had record snowfall in addition to high winds and record-breaking low temperatures. Losses of life, property, citrus crops and trees are all a part of our deep concern this day. Time alone will reveal the Affects this season may have on iris performance and activities for 1984. We are thankful that God's plan usually works to our advantage, although quite often it is hard for us to see that plan very far into the future. The strengthening of our faith in Him may be one of the positive results in what seems now a handicap.

In looking over a recent printout of our Regional Membership List, I was struck again with the few Youth Members we have within our Region. Nancy Schuhmann, our new Youth Chairman, can use your help in this regard. See her appeal in the MINUTES of our Fall Meeting. Since this is the future of our organization, I hope you can help to find ways to increase the Youth membership rolls. Perhaps a Youth Section in our Shows will help stimulate interest. Take time to work with the Youth in your area to stir up interest in gardening, and in hybridizing. A Field Trip to your garden from some of the Elementary School children, may give them an outing and help create that interest. We are depending on help from leaders of our various Chapters in this regard.

We are pleased with the numbers of new members that have been added in some of our Chapters. I hope this will be an incentive for other Chapters to follow suit. One suggestion I read recently was to check our membership rolls and when there are single memberships in a family, check and see if the spouse, or children when that applies, could not be included as a family membership. We might be surprised how many members this might add with little effort on our part.

We have been encouraged from time to time to invite groups to visit our gardens. Garden Clubs quite frequently like to make trips to specialty gardens and have their meeting there. You might like to try this experiment, with a view of picking up new members. Further, if you have suggestions along this line, please pass them on to your Chapter Chairman, or Membership Chairman of your group. Make yourself a member of our Membership Committee, and lets try to increase our membership during the coming months. It will take each one of us working together.

In this connection I am printing a thought from NCIS BULLETIN No 42, September 1972:

XVXRIONX IS NXXDXD

"Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works wxll, xxcxpt for onx of the kxys. It is trux, thxrx are forty-onx kxys that function wxll xnough, but thx onx that doxsn't work makxs quitx a diffxrx-cnx.

"Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that our organiza-tion is somxwhat likx my typxwritxr - not all the pxoplx arx working propxrlly.

"You may say to yoursxlf, 'Wxll, I am only onx person. I can't makx or brxak a program.' But xvxy program to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xach mxmbxr. So the nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson, and that your xfforts arx not nxxdx, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, 'I am a KXY Pxrson in our organization and I am vxry much nxxdx.'"

B. J. BROWN,
R V P

P.S. BXST WISHXS FOR A HAPPY AND PROSPXROUS NXW YXAR!!

MINUTES OF FALL BOARD MEETING
REGION 4, A. I. S.
SEPTEMBER 24, 1983, Harrisonburg, Virginia

The executive board meeting was called to order by retiring RVP, Claire Barr. She thanked Audrey and David Walsh for their fine work in organizing this meeting. She also thanked Bill Kelly, Brian Lazarus and Sterling Innerst for judging the Reblooming Iris Show held in conjunction with this Conference.

SYMPOSIUM: Claire gave the following (almost) final report on popularity of irises in Region 4:

Vanity	36
Beverly Sills	33
Bride's Halo	30
Stepping Out	28
Mary Frances	24
Shipshape	21

The Meeting was then turned over to incoming RVP, B. J. Brown.

YOUTH: B. J. Brown introduced new Youth Chairman, Nancy Schuhmann, who made special appeal to Chapter Chairmen to appoint Youth Chairmen and make a strong effort this year to bring young people into Chapter activities.

ASST. RVP: David Walsh reported 41 members present for this meeting.

IMMEDIATE PAST RVP: Dr. E. Roy Epperson sent a letter of resignation from his two Regional Posts, Chairman of Judges Training Committee and Conventions Chairman. Since Spring Meetings are planned for '84, '85, and '86, the duties of Conventions Chairman would actually start with 1987 meeting. Volunteer for this post was sought but no one volunteered for the job.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Bill Barr moved, Lloyd Zurbrigg seconded that Minutes be approved as published in current Newscast. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Norman Clouser read the Treasurer's Report. He stated that Region 4 was in the best financial condition it has been in ten years. During five of the last ten years we have spent more than we have taken in. Due to Auctions and Chapter Donations, we now have a total in Savings and Checking accounts of \$3,019.30 (including check for \$250.00 just received from Marydel Chapter).

David Walsh asked what rate of interest we are getting on our Savings Account. Answer: 5½%. Question: Could Savings be kept in Super Now Account? Answer: (1) Financial Committee had at one time decided against it; (2) Non-profit organizations cannot use some of the money market plans.

Motion was made by Lloyd Zurbrigg, seconded by Frances Brown that Treasurer investigate higher interest savings accounts and report at next Board Meeting. Motion passed.

HISTORIAN: Polly Price requested Chapters to please forward newspaper clippings, etc., to her. (Address: Mrs. A. H. Price, Route 1, Box 51, Summerfield, N.C. 27358).

PARLIAMENTARIAN: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDITORS, NEWSCAST - No report.

CONVENTIONS: Sites of Region 4 Spring Meetings are: 1984 C & P Chapter, Washington, D.C. area; 1985 Blue Ridge Chapter, Roanoke, Va.; 1986 Eastern North Carolina Chapter (headquarters to be announced later).

Sparling asked the procedure for getting a National Convention in Washington, D.C. area. Rena Crumpler stated it must be handled through the Region. Clouser stated that National Conventions were set through 1989.

MOTION: Sparling moved, Lazarus seconded that C & P Chapter be authorized by Region 4 to investigate inviting the National Convention for earliest date available. Motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP: Helen Rucker reported 43 new members in 1983. She made a special request that members pay their dues promptly when notices are received as there is a great deal of extra work involved in taking names off the list, sending notices to Chapter Chairmen, and reinstating members' names.

Claire called attention to the membership contest announced in the January Bulletin. New members should be reported to RVP to be counted for contest. Only one Region 4 Chapter has done this.

Sparling queried how long is time span between new member registration and report to local Chapter? Answer: About 3 months.

AUCTIONS AND AWARDS: J. D. Stadler announced that tonight's auction would be of Japanese and Siberian irises.

The Bobby Lee Evans Award for best seedling by a Region 4 hybridizer was not awarded this year.

The Claude and Naomi O'Brien Award for the Judges' Choice of introductions of the last five years, growing and blooming in tour gardens, has been withdrawn by the Eppersons. If any person or Chapter wishes to reinstate it, they could do so - possibly changing the requirements to limit the Award to Region 4 hybridizers. Brian Lazarus said he would discuss this with his Chapter.

MEDIAN IRIS: Sparling reported that there is currently no Robin on Medians. He further reported only one Display Garden - his garden in Olney, Maryland, with not many visitors this year.

REBLOOMERS: Zurbrigg reported a bad year for rebloomers. Show of hands at meeting revealed only 7 people had reblooms. "A year to forget".

EXHIBITIONS: Celeste Cox is retiring as Exhibitions Chairman. New Chairman needed.

ROBINS: Claire reported National Robin Chairman is working on coordinating national and regional Robins. Zurbrigg stated the Reblooming Robin is national as well as regional. It was also noted by B.J. Brown that this Region used to be exclusively TB, but that interest in other types and species is spreading. The "Wild Ones" Robin (Species and Beardless) is very exciting.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Dr. Nearpass was not present. It was noted that Nearpass has a number of national slide programs for use by Chapters, but a need for a special Region 4 program was expressed. It was also announced that a special article on Dr. Nearpass and his iris introductions is being planned for a future issue of Newscast.

PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Rena Crumpler reporting: She has been trying to encourage the planting of Siberians and now Japanese. She would like to receive reports of Chapter activities. She suggested that members invite people to view their gardens. She also suggested that members promote Regional Hybridizers.

Sparling: Do we have a list of Regional Hybridizers?
B.J. We could make such a list.

CLAIRE Barr: We never think about sending reports of Chapter activities to Rena. Secretary is instructed to emphasize that Chapter Chairmen should report publicity activities to Rena Crumpler. (Address: Mrs. Rena Crumpler, 2521 Wycliffe Avenue, S.W., Roanoke, Va. 24014.)

JUDGES TRAINING: Claire Barr reporting: Elizabeth Farrar has been promoted to Master Judge; Brian Lazarus is promoted from Apprentice to full judge. Region 4 has 42 judges: 22 are Quota Judges. (Master Judges and former RVP's are not included in Quota.)

CHAPTER REPORTS

B. J. Brown suggested that Chapter Chairmen send reports to Newscast for activities between issues of Newscast. The object to inform entire membership of Chapter activities and to save time at Board Meetings.

Crumpler remarked that Chapter Chairmen are not given sufficient recognition at Regional Board Meetings. Some Chapter activities should be discussed at Board Meetings.

MOTION: Crumpler moved, Bill Barr seconded, that Chapter Chairman send full activity reports to Newscast with option of reporting additional items at Board Meetings. Motion passed.

Sparling reporting: In addition to report in Newscast, C & P Chapter voted to donate \$250.00 to Regional Treasury. Check is forthcoming. They have established a calendar of monthly meetings. Also C & P Chapter is considering sponsoring a National Convention.

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER: Helen Rucker reporting: Full report is in Newscast, including judges training classes by Fred Stephenson, display garden at Garden Center of Roanoke, Auctions and plans to entertain Region 4 in May 1985. Letters of condolence should be sent to Mrs. Oscar Hylton on the death of her husband.

WESTERN N.C.: Full report is in September 1983 Newscast.

F.S.K.CHAPTER: Claire Barr reported that the Spring Iris Show and the annual rhizome sale were both very successful. Other details are in Newscast.

MARYDEL CHAPTER: Willa Owens reporting: Since the Newscast report, the Iris Show date has been set for May 20, 1984 and the Rhizome Sale date is July 14, 1984.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Lazarus: What are the advantages and disadvantages of Affiliation with A.I.S.:

Stadler: A previously independent iris organization may become an affiliate of AIS without 100% membership in AIS. All officers must be AIS members and at least 50% of the membership. Non-AIS members may join the local group - their dues go into the local Chapter or Society Treasury, and they do not receive national publications. Affiliates receive Sweepstake medals free. Chapter must buy them.

SPRING REGIONAL MEETING: Sparling: C & P Chapter is having difficulty setting date for 1984 Spring Regional meeting because of conflicts with National AIS Meeting (Seattle, May 27th), National Hemerocallis, (Florida, May 19), and Maryland Iris Show (Easton, Maryland, May 20). A show of hands revealed that only 4 of those present at meeting would be going to National AIS meeting. Since May 26 and 27 are peak bloom dates for the D.C. area, the Spring Regional meeting was set for those dates, despite conflicts.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Committee nominated to nominate regional officers for 1985: Clarence Mahan, Chairman; Rosalie Figge; Alice Bouldin; and Bill Kelly.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

WILLA OWENS, Secretary.



**Join the American
Iris Society!**

- Single annual membership - \$ 9.50
 triennial - \$23.75
- Quarterly illustrated bulletins
- Send dues to A.I.S. Membership:
James G. Burch, 717 Pratt Ave. NE,
Box 10003, Huntsville, AL 35801

REGION 4 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance May 1, 1983 \$2,260.10

RECEIPTS

5/7/83 Sale of booklets	9.00
5/7/83 Auction	331.50
6/23/83 N.C.I.S. (Memory of Viola Nelson))	25.00
6/24/83 Blue Ridge Chapter Contribution	250.00
6/30/83 Interest	23.26
7/19/83 Car.Mountain Iris Soc.(Memory of Viola Nelson)	10.00
7/27/83 W.N.C.Chapter (Viola Nelson)	20.00
7/27/83 W.N.C.Chapter contribution	100.00
8/1/83 Sale of booklets	1.80
8/8/83 Newscast subscriptions (3)	9.00
8/17/83 Fall meeting registrations (13)	78.00
8/4/83 N.C.I.S. contribution	66.00
9/8/83 Fall meeting registrations (10)	60.00
9/20/83 Fall Meeting registrations (8))	48.00
Total receipts	<u>1,031.56</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

9/16/83 The Copy Shop - Sept. Newscast	480.12
9/19/83 Postage for Sept. Newscast	42.24
Total Disbursements	<u>522.36</u>

Balance Sept 23d, 1983 \$ 2,769.30

Note: Balance in Savings Account	2,417.76
Balance in Checking "	351.54
	2,769.30

Check from Marydel Chapter, received at Fall Meeting	250.00
---	--------

Amount reported in Minutes \$ 3,019.30

Receipts from Fall Auction and further contributions from Chapters, as well as expenses of Fall Meeting and other expenses will reflect in April Newscast Treasurer's Report update.

REGION 4 HYBRIDIZER - DR. D. C. NEARPASS

By Clarence Mahan

Soil Scientist, horticulturist, plant hybridizer, photographer - he is all of these, and more. He is, of course, Dr. D. C. Nearpass, known affectionately to his many friends as "Charlie". And, had he stopped hybridizing in 1969, the year of his first introductions, he still would have made an indelible mark in the iris world. For among the three superior irises he introduced that year was the stunningly beautiful LORD BALTIMORE, which, 14 years later, still remains on the American Iris Society Popularity Poll of top 100 irises. At the time of its introduction there was nothing like this stately iris with velvet substance, blue-white standards, violet falls and yellow beard. Of the first three irises Dr. Nearpass introduced, two - JEALOUS LOVER and LORD BALTIMORE - won Honorable Mention awards. LORD BALTIMORE went on to receive the Award of Merit and a silver medal at Orleans, France. Seldom has an iris hybridizer achieved such acclaim the first time out. But then, Dr. Nearpass is exceptional in all his endeavors. Of his eleven iris introductions, seven have won Honorable Mentions and Three have won Awards of Merit.

Dr. Nearpass was born in Newbury Center, Ohio, and reared in Florida. After attending the University of Florida, his formal education was interrupted by military service with the U. S. Army during WWII. When the war was over he enrolled under the G.I. Bill at Cornell University, where he earned both a masters degree and a doctorate in agronomy. He then joined the research staff of the Soil and Water Conservation Research Division of the U.S. Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Maryland. His work at Beltsville - from which he has now retired after more than 30 years of government service - included numerous studies of plant uptakes, zinc and sulphur availability, submerged soils and pesticide and herbicide effects. A widower, Dr. Nearpass lives in College Park, Maryland;

he has a daughter who lives in New York. His extensive iris and daylily collections are grown on a lot at Spencerville, Maryland, and visitors are always welcome to stop by.

In the 1950's, a neighbor gave the Nearpasses some irises. This was the beginning. In the late 50's Dr. Nearpass joined the AIS, and about 1960 started his first hybridizing efforts. He was particularly impressed by the achievements which WHOLE CLOTH and EMMA COOK represented. The form, vigor and ruffling of SNOW FLURRY were, to him, potential that had still unexploited possibilities. Early on he set a goal of developing a pink iris in the EMMA COOK pattern. He also decided to pursue an amoena with plicata falls. Improved tangerine beards and ruffling were additional goals. During the 60's he sent some of his seedlings to Tell Muhlestein, who provided critical evaluations, encouragement, and advice. In 1968 he registered his first three irises which were introduced the following year. Two of these, IVY LEAGUE and LORD BALTIMORE, had pod parents from the SNOW FLURRY X WHOLE CLOTH cross. It is important to understand that the outstanding quality of these seedlings was not an accident. Dr. Nearpass's approach to hybridization has been that of a scientist. He studied the genetics and chemistry of the iris plant, and the work done by other hybridizers; he has based his crosses on the most likely genetic outcome toward specific goals. With a twinkle in his eye, he will tell you that you can achieve a lovely pink self worthy of introductions by crossing two pretty pink selfs and growing 5,000 seedlings. And, of course, this is true; but the Nearpass approach has been neither so pedestrian or unintellectual as the crossing of two pretty pinks.

In 1970, Dr. Nearpass's COUNTRY MUSIC, with orient pink standards, plum purple falls, and tangerine beard, was introduced, and in 1972 it won an Honorable Mention. Also in 1972, the hauntingly lovely pale amoena DOVER BEACH, another Award of Merit winner, was introduced. Its pale blue falls, lemon tipped beard, and fabulous

substance gained instant popularity; and it has remained on the Popularity Poll to the present time. The year 1976 was a bonanza year for Nearpass introductions. Six irises were introduced that year: PEACH PAISLEY, MID VICTORIAN, HOMEWARD BOUND, ROSE TATTOO, PINK PICOTEE and SPINNING WHEEL. The strikingly beautiful and unique SPINNING WHEEL was destined to be the third Nearpass Award Of Merit iris. The symmetry of the blue-violet plicata markings on the falls - a "spinning wheel" of color - and the perfect proportions of the flower, make it impossible to confuse with any other iris. It, too, quickly became, and has remained, a Popularity Poll favorite. Unfortunately, the overwhelming attention given SPINNING WHEEL has probably been, to some extent, at the expense of the other five 1976 Nearpass introductions. Both PINK PICOTEE and ROSE TATTOO are beautiful plicatas, and both won Honorable Mentions. At the time of their introduction, they were forerunners of unique color patterns. HOMEWARD BOUND, which interestingly brought Crossman's LADY OF LOUDOUN into the Nearpass lines, is a sumptuous flower with pale pink standards, rich mauve falls, and tangerine beard. MID VICTORIAN and PEACH PAISLEY, with different and unique color rims on their falls, are also very lovely irises.

The Nearpass emphasis on quality and originality is readily apparent. Although Dr. Nearpass has not allowed any of his irises to be introduced since 1976, it is not because he lacks seedlings of great merit. He had five at the Boston Convention, three of which won the HC this year; and at least one of these is now being grown in quantity by Schreiners'. He also has an orange amoena seedling that should spark considerable interest. Don't be surprised to see some new Nearpass introductions before too long; and don't be surprised if there is a great beauty with peach pink standards and mauve falls.

The AIS and Region 4 have been the beneficiaries of Dr. Nearpass's photographic and slide program construction and management services for such a long time,

that they have become institutional fixtures. It is quite easy to forget how much effort and time he has devoted to providing AIS with photographic resources unequaled by any other plant society. His interest in photography began with a desire to photograph close ups of the African Violets he was growing many years ago. His initial efforts involved quite a bit of jerryrigging equipment and trial and error; but as in his other interests, he persevered until he mastered the techniques of plant photography. His work in building the array of slide sets that are available to us today has been an invaluable contribution to the promotion of the iris, and to the education of members and nonmembers alike. He is currently maintaining over 3,000 slides in formal sets, and about 3,000 slides not currently in program sets.

In addition to his outstanding work with irises, Dr. Nearpass also grows and hybridizes daylilies. Another interesting pursuit he has taken up is genealogy; with the trace of a smile, he speaks disdainfully of the Nearpass branch of his family as "newcomers" because they did not arrive in America until the 1700's. (One can not be sure he is jesting, since his daughter claims membership in the Mayflower Society based on descent from Mayflower passengers on both her mother's and father's sides of the family.)

You might be surprised to learn what Dr. Nearpass's favorite iris is, especially since his 11 introductions are all TB's. When asked what iris he would grow if he could only grow one, he answers without hesitation: ANNIVERSARY, the Siberian winner of the British Dykes Medal some years back. He is impressed with Ben Hager's tetraploid MTB introduction, LOUISE HOPPER; and he views MTB's as a fertile area for hybridizers to be working in. Of the TB's available today, he is impressed with LEDA'S LOVER, GO AROUND, FRENO CALYPSO, PLEASURE DOME, RINGO, and FANCY TALES. He speculates that POST TIME is probably the best red around, and THELMA RUDOLPH perhaps the nicest pink. He would put PINK BUBBLES in a class by itself among the BB's.

In partially enumerating Dr. Nearpass's many accomplishments and interests, less than a complete and accurate picture emerges; for it is impossible to capture his marvelous individuality, intellect and subtle humor with the pen. His wit certainly has Dickensian qualities about it, and many might consider it as rare as his beautiful irises. His knowledge of iris genetics, hybridizing, judging and growing has deeply enriched our lives. His willingness to share his knowledge with experienced pro and amateur alike; his kindness and willingness to help and advise when asked; and his devotion to the improvement of the iris, in all its splendid forms, are attributes which all who know him value highly. He is our own, internationally renowned, Region 4 hybridizer - Dr. D. C. Nearpass.

TOUR GARDENS - SPRING MEETING
1984

C & P Chapter is really making plans for the Spring Meeting on May 26 and 27 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Details of the meeting, headquarters and general plans will appear in the April Newscast.

Information on the gardens to be visited follows.

THE GARDEN OF MARGARET THOMAS
C. Mahan

Margaret Thomas has been collecting, growing and promoting irises for many years. These days Virginia Walczak helps Margaret maintain her garden, because it has become more than a one-woman job. Although much of what was once the Thomas farm, at 12410 Lawyers Rd., Herndon, Virginia has given way to modern suburban single-family houses, the white frame farm house and remaining acreage are, come May, transformed into a massive rainbow of irises. Hundreds and hundreds of iris varieties, old and new, dominate the landscape. Many of the large rectangular beds are reserved exclusively for irises. Others are dominated by irises, but also have coral bells, peonies, painted daisies, daylilies and other perennials. This is the garden of a flower lover, and the rugosa rose, Japanese kerria, and azaleas are allowed to grow in their natural shapes, in the manner of English cottage gardens.

The irises of Region 4 hybridizers: Burger, Nearpass, Crossman and Powell, are well represented. And, although in numbers of diverse cultivars, no other type approaches the Tall Bearded's. Margaret also grows collections of medians, Siberians, Japanese, and some Louisiana irises.

Some of the newest irises to be found in the Thomas garden are the Kegerise introductions MOMENT OF TIME, WARM REGARDS and SILENT MORN; Cooley's introductions LUXURY LACE, JELLY ROLL, ELISA RENEE, SKATING PARTY, BANDERA WALTZ, and PRISSY MISS; and quite a few Bay View introductions: PRALINE, HANDIWORK SPECULATOR, SOAP OPERA, BUBBLING OVER, SOCIAL REGISTER, TROPICA, CENTENNIAL STATE, VENEER and FEMINIST. There are many other newer irises; but a special treat in the Thomas garden is the discovery of a clump of a not so new variety, perhaps one you have not seen for a few years, outshining all around it. There are many such varieties to be found, and they are healthy and well grown. To the scores of guests who stop by every year, Margaret is a truly gracious hostess; Regional

guests are in for a hearty welcome and an experience in iris viewing that they will not soon forget in the garden of Margaret Thomas.

THE GARDEN OF CLARENCE AND SUKY MAHAN
C. Mahan

The Mahan's pink brick, ranch style house is located on a half-acre lot in McLean, Virginia. When they acquired this property three years ago it was overgrown with trees and shrubs, and their garden is "under construction". Even before they started their relandscaping efforts, laying out an iris bed had first priority. They have been adding iris beds every year, in between cutting down 17 large trees and removing scores of old shrubs. They are now growing about 300 different varieties, a large percentage of which are of recent introduction. Some of the newer TB's are: Hamblen's SONG OF SPRING, FRANCES GAULTER, INFINITE GRACE, ROSABELLE V., and SUGARPLUM FAIRY; Shoop's DAMSEL, BLAZING LIGHT, SEA GYPSY, and FANCY TALES: CROSSMAN'S CECILIA D., LOUDOUN GOLD and LOUDOUN ROYAL; Bouldin's RENATTA; B.J.Brown's DESIGNER'S CHOICE: Gaulter's ELISA RENEE and SKATING PARTY; and Schreiners' EDGE OF WINTER, WEDDING CANDLES, INVITATION and BRISTO MAGIC. They are also growing a number of newer remontants, including Zurbrigg's IMMORTALITY and GRACE THOMAS; and a number of recent Spage Age introductions, such as Mahoney's AACHEN, MY DARLING SCATTERBRAIN, AH SO, and MARY O. MAHONEY; Hager's SNOW SPOON; and Rowlan's ANGEL'S FIRE, ANGEL'S VEIL and HULA HONEY. Rhizomes of all the Region 4 guest seedlings will be growing in raised beds, which includes seedlings by B.J.Brown, Dick Sparling, John Moffitt, J.D.Stadler and George Crossman.

This past year Clarence and Suky built a large lily pond, with a waterfall and rock garden. Although the landscaping is not finished, some Japanese and Louisiana iris are growing beside the pond, along with about 20 Siberians, such as PINK HAZE, ODE TO LOVE, FROSTY RIM and ANN DASCH. They also are growing a

number of species, e.g.: *I. verna*, *I. cristata*, *I. graminea*, *I. florentina*, *I. tectorum* and *I. siberica acuta nana*. The Mahan's are charter members of the Washington area Old Rose Society, and hope that some early bloom of the old American Beauty, Madam Alfred Carriere, or DeMeaux will open up to greet their Region 4 friends, along with the irises.

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM C. Mahan

Members of Region 4 who have not visited the National Arboretum are in for a very special horticultural experience; and those who have been to the Arboretum usually have been there a number of times - one always wants to go back. In one 22-acre garden at the Arboretum is a collection of boxwood, day-lilies, peonies and iris. This collection, managed by Lynn Batdorf, curator of Boxwood, Daylily and Peony Collection, includes over 100 different cultivars-species of boxwood and over 450 different daylily cultivars. The iris beds are the youngest part of the collection, having been started only a few years ago. Charles and Celeste Cox played a major role in getting this iris collection installed.

Mr. Batdorf says that the irises have proved to be very popular with the public, and their numbers have been expanded each year. Currently, there are 25 Siberian iris cultivars and 15 Japanese Iris cultivars provided by Dr. William Ackerman, a Staff REsearch Scientist with the Arboretum, and noted Region 4 iris-arian. The most popular attraction has been the 76 tall bearded irises; some of the recent introductions grown are EXTROVERT, FEEDBACK, LACY LASSO, SILVER FLOW, DISTANT FIRE, EDGE OF WINTER, SKIER'S DELIGHT, STARCREST, TIDE'S IN and WEDDING CANDLES. There are also a few medians scattered throughout the garden.

On the tour visit to the Arboretum, it is planned to allow a little time for a walk through the magnificent herb and old rose garden, one of the newest features at the Arboretum. If the schedule permits,

this will be an added bit of serendipity.

RIVER FARM
C. Mahan

River Farm, home to the American Horticultural Society, was one of the five farms that comprised George Washington's Mount Vernon plantation. The American Horticultural Society purchased the property in 1973 with funds provided by the Enid A. Haupt Charitable Trust, and with the explicit purpose of making it a national focus for horticultural interest. As the AHS literature says: "To-day's visitors find River Farm much as it has been through the centuries. The gently rolling Virginia landscape descends gradually to the river frontage where one can stand to view the Washington Monument and the Capitol City. Great walnut trees still shade beautiful lawns and two Kentucky coffee bean trees, a variety Washington introduced to the area, are found on the property. Plantings of boxwoods, magnolias, wisteria and other ornamentals blend into a setting of serene beauty."

When May comes, the iris beds - which now constitute an official American Iris Society Tall Bearded Display Garden - are the center of visitor's attention. The contributions of Charles and Celeste Cox and Bill and Claire Barr in the establishment of these beds merit special mention. Steve Davis is Director of Grounds and Buildings, and Ray Rogers, long time AIS member and experienced horticulturist who recently joined the River Farm staff is now paying special attention to the iris collection. Many new cultivars were added this past year. From Gordon Plough, these recent introductions: ECSTATIC ECHO, HIT SONG, RIO De ORO, CUP OF COCOA, HERE'S MY HEART, JAVA PEACH, TRADER'S GOLD and TULIP TIME. Three new Rudolph irises were added: PINK BALLERINA, LAVENDER HEART, and CARVED CASTLE; along with four of Opal Brown's: COZY 'N WARM, CASCADE MORN, GLASS SLIPPERS, and FRISCO FOLLIES. Melba Hamblen's EXTRAVAGANT, ROSABELLE V., SONG OF SPRING and FRANCES GAULTER will also be on display. This past year, Niswon-

ger's LILAC THRILL (1979) and Luihn's SONG OF NORWAY WERE OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS. The C&P Chapter has had meetings at the River Farm facilities from time to time, and the beautiful setting and charming atmosphere always makes for a truly delightful experience. You'll want to be sure to have your camera at River Farm.

THE GARDEN OF CELESTE and CHARLES COX Celeste Cox

When we purchased our home in September of 1949, it was really in the country. We had a big dairy farm in front of us and woods on both sides and back of us. The large trees and dogwood on the land were thankfully left by the builder.

Our garden is strictly our own endeavor. It was started in the spring of 1950 and we advanced through trial and error.

We loved most every kind of tree, shrub and flower we planted. About 1960 some one gave me some large dark iris which were a new development at the time. It was not, however, until I ordered and we planted INCA CHIEF, VANITY FAIR and SOLID GOLD that Charles really became interested in iris. I had studied the Chrysanthemum judging course and had planted them in the sunny places. These were replaced by Charles's new love, iris. We then started going on iris tours, iris meetings, etc. and kept up pretty well with new varieties.

We have now become selective and plant for good growth, color and form. Most of our iris are award winners and many are from local hybridizers. We do very little one-rhysome planting, but like to plant three of a kind which makes a nice clump of color, especially the second and third years after transplanting.

We have given hundreds of iris rhysomes away. They can be found in gardens in Virginia, Maryland, Cali-

fornia, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, Mississippi, Minnesota, etc. and two foreign countries. We have given them to the National Arboretum, American Horticulture Society and the White House. We tried our best to make them popular.

We enjoy the support of the neighborhood which has mushroomed into an unbelievable size, in our endeavor to grow and maintain what they refer to as a spot of beauty. Many people come every year to tell us how they appreciate the garden. They also photograph the flowers and artists come to paint them. This makes our labors seem worthwhile so we keep on planting and working strictly in our own way.

We also grow roses, daffodils, wild flowers, azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, herbs and berried trees and shrubs.

IRISES

FOR EVERYONE

The American Iris Society announces a new addition to your library of iris books . . .

In full color, *Irises for Everyone*, 24 pages, 5½ x 8½.

The all-color introduction to irises, just off the press, *Irises For Everyone* promotes all kinds of irises, the American Iris Society and your local society; use it as a gift to your gardening friends, a guide to new gardeners, a souvenir of your iris show. Single copies are \$3.00. Or . . . use it as a moneymaker for your society — Buy in packs of 10: \$18.00, for resale at \$30.00. All prices include postage and handling.

**Order from: Jaymie Heathcock
Route 2, Box 238
Mounds, OK 74047**

Make checks payable to AIS.

ARIL-MEDS IN MARYLAND
BY Richard C. Sparling

One class of Medians that is not seen frequently in many gardens is: the Aril-Meds. These are the iris with Aril breeding that fall under the tall size. They generally have 50% or less Aril genes and are considered to have a better affinity for the "wetter" climates than straight Arils.

Having had three years to evaluate the performance of the few I have, I frankly have to say that I need more time. Their general performance has to rate only fair to good. When they do perform, they are great but very few have been consistent. IBAB, DIZZY SAMMY, SALETTA and STICHERY have been the best in bloom, vigor and vitality - a good show each year. Blooming in two or three years, but not up to what one would want are CALIFA KABANG, CANASTA, LOUD MOUTH and PLUM CUTE. Not blooming well for the size of the clump and only in one of the years were LITTLE ORCHID ANNIE, OYEZ, SHEIK, SPICE WOOD, STOL-BEE, SYRIAN MOON and TEMPLE DANCER. When they do bloom they are gorgeous if you like Arils. I attribute the lack of performance to the weather. No two years have been alike. This is why I need additional time for evaluation. One of the nicest that I've had for only two years is TINY TYKE and it's only 5 to 7 inches high.

Some of the Aril-Meds have a nasty habit of disappearing in June-July and one thinks they have been lost, but most reappear in September. Some have not been very vigorous growers and there is hardly any increase, but when they bloom.....!! Great!

This Class is different - some are quite handsome, some very bright, some with weird color combinations, most with a round shape, veined and big marks of contrasting color. They "grow on you" as an irisarian, and you come to appreciate them.

I've acquired five additional ones this year and hopefully they will give me as much satisfaction as the older ones have. They have started off at a faster pace and hopefully will bloom next Spring.

Go out and see some of the little fellas for yourself. Get one or two! They are worth a try!

IRIS CALENDAR

2/19/84 - C & P Slide Show
3/18/84 - C & P Special Dinner
4/15/84 - C & P Ray Rogers on Landscaping with iris.
5/5/84 - WNC - Eastland Mall, Charlotte, N.C. - Show
5/6/84 - C & P Judges Training - Medians
5/12/84 - WNC - Carolina Mall, Concord - Show
5/20/84 - Marydel - Easton, Md. - Show - Sunbeams in Bloom
5/27-31 - Seattle, Washington - A I S Convention
May (to be announced) River Farm Open House - C&P area
June (to be announced) Special Tour - C & P.
June 10-24 Iris Garden Tour of Japan - for information
contact E. E. Varnum, Coordinator
4703 Constitution Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80915

May (date to be announced) Show - E.N.C.- Burlington, NC
May (date to be announced) Show - W.N.C.- Asheville, N.C.
(Carolina Mountain Iris Society)

Most of these dates are tentative. The N.C. events, after last year's experience, I'm sure are tentative. Also your editors did not have information. These should be firmed by April issue of Newscast, and in time for you to attend events which you may choose.

Please send dates of future activities so that we can take advantage of out of chapter events if so desired.

DR. WILLIAM L. ACKERMAN RECIPIENT OF AN AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AWARD - 1983 - FOLLOWING IS AN
EXCERPT FROM AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST, NOVEMBER 1983

"The Scientific Citation was presented to William L. Ackerman, who has spent 34 years working in the field of plant research. For 30 of those years Dr. Ackerman has worked at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. His plant breeding efforts have resulted in the introduction of 33 new cultivars - 14 camellias, 5 hollies, 12 irises and 2 pears. In addition, Dr. Ackerman's research has yielded new breeding lines that promise to provide important genetic material for plant breeding for many years to come. These include 143 inter-specific camellia hybrids, 15 iris hybrids and, perhaps most importantly, two intergeneric crosses between Camellia and Franklinia.

"From 1959 until 1974, Dr. Ackerman served as the administrative and research head of the United States Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland. Since that time he has been research leader of the Woody and Herbaceous Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics Program at the U.S. National Arboretum. Dr. Ackerman is recognized as the country's leading authority on camellia hybridization, and the importance of his research has been recognized internationally....."

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - December 1, 1983

NEW MEMBERS - FSK Chapter

Mr/Mrs Anthony Ricchiuti, 5796 Western View Place,
Mt. Airy, Md. 21771

NEW MEMBERS - C & P CHAPTER

Mr. Joseph Dillon, P.O.Box 6, Purcellville, Va. 22132

Mr/Mrs. Mogens H. Fog, 3901 Jocelyn Street, NW,
Washington, D. C. 20055

Mrs. D. L. Jones, P.O.Box 307, Grantsville, Md. 21536

Ms. Gladys N. Lee, 2924 Marlow Rd, Silver Springs,
Md. 20904

Mrs. Joseph K. Mount, 4205 Selkirk Drive, Fairfax,
Va. 22032

Mr/ Guy B. Oldaker, Route 2 Box 157, Culpepper, Va. 22701

Mr/Mrs Gordon Takeshita, 4095 Camelot Court,
Dumfries, Va. 22026

Dr. Adrienne Whyte, 6704 West Falls Way, Falls
Church, Va. 22046

Ms. Dorothy L. Donivan, 1324 Towlston Road,
Vienne, Va. 22180

NEW MEMBERS - MARY-DEL CHAPTER

Mrs. R. W. (Grace R.) Hartge, P.O.Box 155,
Grasonville, Md. 21638 (Hartge from single to
family).

NEW MEMBERS - BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

Mrs. Thomas F. Hayes, Rt 1, Box 575, Standardsville,
Va. 22973

NEW MEMBERS - EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

Mr. A. G. Blount, P.O.Box 73, Shiloh, N.C. 27974

Tish B. Evans, 301 Club Pines Road, Greenville,
N.C. 27834

Maxine McCall, Rt 7, Box 311, Rocky Mount,
N.C. 27801

NEW MEMBERS - WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

N.C. Holden, Jr. & Carol Holden, 7709 Ridgelock Pl.,
Matthews, N.C. 28105

Mrs. Betty Price, Route 6, Box 26, Murphy, N.C. 28906

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (CONCLUDED)

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER - REINSTATEMENT

Mr. Charles C. Jack, P.O.Box 613, Alderson,
W.Va. 27910

MULCHING
Lois Grimes

I am fortunate in that I have a white pine tree growing in my back yard, or should I say taking up most of my back yard. It is so beautiful that I would never consider having it cut, even though it threatens to grow into the house. It is the source of my pine needles, with which I mulch. Last year I was quite late getting them on because of the mild weather we had last fall and winter, but did finally get them on all my iris beds. In my bed of new iris I had just acquired, I had no heaving of the rhizomes and about 85% of them bloomed for me, which is better percentage than I have had other years with first year planting without mulching.

The pine needles do not pack down like some other materials and they are also quite airy; they let the air circulate. Pine needle mulch also helps to keep the weeds down, which is a great help come Spring when there seems to be so many things to do in the yard. Since I have reset about 60% of my irises into new beds this year, I will be waiting to see the results of first year bloom after mulching this Fall.

In closing, I will add a note because it has probably crossed readers' minds: ROT! I had some in just the new beds - none in the old beds which also were mulched; but I am sure the reason for the rot in the new beds was because of too much fertilizer - not because of the mulch. I remove the mulch in March, and clean up the beds of weeds and debris. Hope this may be helpful to others considering using mulch.

(From C & P Newsletter, Issue 7, October 1983).

NOTE: In the September 1983 Newscast, was a substitute writeup on The Steele Garden, inserted just before publication date. The "real thing" came a few days later, and we publish this issue because even two writeups could not do justice to this garden - and to show that substitutes are usually just that - substitutes.

THE STEELE GARDEN
Brian Lazarus

"Pardon me, but there's a bass in your rabbit trap!" "This garden was under water how recently?" "How high did the water get?" "And, you were still able to win sweepstakes?" "Does anyone know the name of this azalea?" "You think it's Martha Hitchcock - thank you." "So that's how you pronounce cotoneaster!" All of the above comments were prompted by the Steele Garden.

After walking to the back of the Steele house, one is invited by the woodland setting. At the head of the path there are two very attractive picotee azaleas, which were identified with the names of the friends who had given them to the Steeles. The woods path is a wild flower paradise, including Trillium, Partridge Berry, Lady's Slippers, and the lovely blue-eyed grass. The latter, I was pleased to learn, is a member of the iris family.

The woodland path opens on to a stream bank. There, in several graceful curves are raised beds given over to the culture of beardless iris. During our visit, the Siberians and tectorum (white and blue) were at their peak. Despite many of their number having been excised to garner the sweepstakes for Mrs. Steele, they were of large enough clump strength to make a magnificent display. I was impressed with the tectorum which I had not seen in clump before, and noted the Siberians: Summer Sky, Maranatha, and Perry's Pygmy. However, the flower that stole my heart was Sky Wings, a delicate old-fashioned mid blue with a large yellow center. The flowers were blooming at different heights and made a magnificent airy arrangement. It was

difficult to grasp that until recently, this garden was completely submerged under several feet of water. Did anyone else reflect on the fertile crescent?

One of the beds is dominated by a large drift of tightwad, a bright golden yellow wildflower, with dense petals resembling a strawflower in miniature. One of the banks is held in place by cotoneaster - pronounced cō-tone-e-aster. I bet you thought it was cotton-easter, too!

On the path back to the house, the submersible rabbit trap was pointed out. A little further up were the propagating frames and more wild flowers. All in all, this was an opportunity to take a delightful woodland stroll down a wild flower path, and a chance to see a number of beardless iris masterfully grown.

** ** * * * * *
Another Note: Another article which came a couple of days after September issue was at the printers:

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAPTER REPORT
Doris Simpson

Francis Scott Key held its Iris Show at the Watson's Garden Center on Saturday, May 21, 1983. As was universal this past Spring, the host club found the show date too early for the home town iris - another way of saying the iris were 1 - 2 weeks late everywhere! But, friends from Annapolis and Olney came, bearing their blooms, for which we were most grateful. Their helpfulness was amply rewarded: Brian Lazarus won Queen of the Show with TB SOLANO and Best Seedling with a TB seedling #38. Silver medal for Most Blue Ribbons was won by Dick Sparling; Bronze Medal for Runner-up won by Brian Lazarus. Section Certificates: Tall Bearded, Lazarus; Other Bearded, Sparling; Siberian, Rosalie Figge, representing the "home-team's" only major win. Twenty-eight exhibitors entered 167 specimens, a small but pretty show.

A picnic was held on May 29 at Iris Haven, home of Chapter President, Owings Rebert. He and Doris greeted guests who braved the rain to admire the flowers and enjoy the Rebert's hospitality.

The Annual Iris Sale was held Saturday, July 9 at Watson's Garden Center and was a huge success. "Ten AM until sold out" was the advertised time. People were waiting in line for the sale to begin and we were sold out early. Total profits were almost \$1,300.00. Congratulations to those members who worked so hard to prepare for the sale.

There will be a fall meeting October 15, exact location has not been decided at this writing, but a trip to River Farm, Ladew Gardens, or Longwood Gardens is under consideration.

*** **

CORRECTIONS to Marydell Chapter Report in Sept. Newscast, page 36:

Correspondence Secretary - Maryanne Loftus
Treasurer - Hattie Curry

Publicity Chairman - James Cope (added)

The theme of our May 20, 1984 Show will be "SUNBEAMS IN BLOOM".

C & P CHAPTER REPORT

C. Mahan

C & P Chapter has been very busy this past summer and autumn, both with current activities and with preparations for hosting the Regional Spring Meeting next May. With the very successful auction in July and Dick Sparling's donation of proceeds from sales from his garden, the treasury was enhanced by almost \$2,000.00. Meetings were held at River Farm in September, the McLean Community Center in October, and the National Arboretum in November.

On a gorgeous late summer afternoon, Sunday, September 18, the Chapter had a picnic, business meeting and slide show at River Farm. Brian Lazarus and Dick Sparling provided the slide presentation, which consisted of iris pictures they had taken during the past Spring. The members voted to donate \$250.00 to the Regional Treasury, to pursue an effort to have a National Convention in Washington, D.C., and to explore the advantages of converting C & P into an affiliated AIS Society. Lois Grimes and Brian Lazarus volunteered to take on the research effort. The possibility of C & P undertaking to construct a "C & P Chapter Hybridizers" book, which would contain pictures of all the iris introductions by C & P hybridizers was discussed. Brian Lazarus agreed to explore the work required and probable cost of preparing such a book.

There are no remontants currently being grown at River Farm, but members did examine the iris beds. The name signs, foliage and rhizomes were enjoyed by all (but the dahlia display was much prettier).

In October, Dick Sparling manned an A I S table at River Farm Open House. A number of people expressed interest, and potential for new members was identified. A prominent spot on the table was reserved for a bloom stalk of IMMORTALITY, which, of course, led to Dock's hearing: "How did

you get it to bloom now?" - over and over. At the C & P meeting on October 16, Dr. Nearpass showed the excellent slide set on the Boston Convention. Two slides that resulted in "Oo's and Ah's" were of the lovely Nearpass 76-26, a peppery plicata, and Gene Burger's M-4 (white with blue ring on the falls).

Officers for the coming year were elected: Chairman, Dick Sparling; Vice Chairman, Dr. D.C. Nearpass; and Treasurer, Lois Grimes. Committees were established, and members showed commendable enthusiasm in volunteering for services. Upon receiving a report by Lois Grimes and Brian Lazarus, members voted to reorganize C & P into an Affiliated Society of AIS. (Steve Harsy has volunteered to draft new By-Laws). Members also passed a motion to apply to hold the AIS National Convention in Washington, D.C. in 1990 or 1991. Brian Lazarus gave a report on options for the "C&P Chapter Hybridizers" book, which the membership voted to pursue, and he also volunteered to explore the possibility of C & P sponsoring a Region 4 Award to replace the Claude and Naomi O'Brien Award, which is being discontinued. Steve Harsy agreed to find out the cost of acquiring permanent name tags for our members.

An excellent article on irises, A I S and C & P written by the "Earthman", Henry Mitchell, appeared in a Sunday edition of the Washington Post in October. Also in October, Clarence Mahan and his daughter, Christiane, set up an iris table display, including bloom stalks of BABY BLESSED and IMMORTALITY at the Merrifield Garden Center Fall Festival. Several potential new AIS members were identified.

The highlight of the November meeting was a superb talk and slide presentation on Louisiana irises by Doris Simpson of Baltimore. A drawing for a freshly dug Louisiana, which Doris brought for demonstration, was won by one of C & P's newest members, Pippa Fog of Washington, D.C.

At the business meeting reports were given on the various projects. A I S has approved Washington, D.C. as the 1991 National Convention site. Region 4 will be the host. The next C & P Meeting will be in January, and its principal feature will be a Judges Training session conducted by Dennis Wilke of Columbia, Maryland.

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER
Helen Rucker

Blue Ridge Chapter has had an enjoyable and productive 1983-83 year with the work and cooperation of our members. Mr. Fred Stephenson has conducted two sessions of Judges Training with most interested groups. Full Class on Basic Judging with Exams. In May, he gave more instructions with Garden Judging in four gardens. The gardens used were the Stephenson Garden, Rena Crumpler's Garden, Frances Brown's Garden and the Oscar Hylton Garden. The Class appreciates the time and efforts of Mr. Stephenson and the Gardens visited.

Mrs. Crumpler has been a great help to our members, sharing her beautiful garden and her knowledge of Irises. Mrs. Crumpler has charge of the Iris Bed at the Garden Center. Besides being A Spot of Beauty at the Center, the Irises are specially ordered for our Iris Auction. With other fine irises donated by our members, this is one of our Projects. Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg is our fine Auctioneer. Kay Cooper, Millie Trent and Charlotte Kabler were Chairmen for our Iris Sale at the Garden Center. Lois Disney and Donna Wade conducted a sale at Blacksburg.

Our Chapter has had a great loss in the death of Mr. Oscar Hylton. It is our hope to go to Blacksburg and Radford in October to see the Rebloomers.

Blue Ridge Chapter, with Mr. Fred Stephenson, Chairman and Mr. Terry Ayres, Vice-Chairman is looking forward to entertaining Region 4 in May, 1985.

FALL HAPPENINGS IN F S K CHAPTER
Owings Rebert

On returning from the Harrisonburg Fall Regional, we proceeded immediately to finalize our own plans for the annual fall luncheon of the Chapter. With the excellent assistance of our Program Director, Gerald Richter, and coordinator, Claire Barr, all was readied for an October 15th affair.

It was a near-perfect Saturday, warm and sunny, with the color of Fall foliage near its peak. About thirty-five FSK members journeyed to the beautiful Ladew Topiary Gardens in Harford County. Here, assembling in the quaint "Studio Room", a delicious box lunch was served by the staff at high noon.

We were fortunate to have our National director of Slide Programs, Dr. Nearpass, to be present and to present and narrate the program feature for the afternoon. Slides of the '83 Boston National were indeed enjoyed by all. Additional subjects were also included, but mainly and on request Dr. Nearpass prepared a review of his hybridizing handiwork and introductions. It was good to know that many of his iris have been, and are now being grown by several FSK members. Likewise, it was equally good to be reminded that some of his introductions enjoyed success on the ladder of awards to the point of being only one step from reaching the Dykes Medal. We were indeed honored!

A short business meeting followed. The annual election being the main item on the agenda. The Nomination Committee, consisting of Maynard Harp, Chairman; Claire Barr and Douglas Whitehurst, members; presented a slate of officers. Nominated were:

Owings Rebert for President,
Rosalie Figge for Vice President
Vicki Dorf for Recording Secretary
Doris Rebert for Correspondence Secretary
Bill Barr for Treasurer

There were no further nominations, and the slate was accepted as presented.

Because of the shortening afternoons, it was decided to adjourn early in order to more fully enjoy the touring of the Ladew Gardens, which now include many reblooming irises. Those of us who were visiting the gardens for the first time were impressed beyond measure by the topiary figures and sculptures. These are most outstanding, as well as many unique areas of the garden. One has to stroll through the more than twenty acres to fully appreciate the dedication and fine work and devotion that makes such a garden possible.

An FSK board meeting is being planned for early December.

WESTERN N. C. CHAPTER

The September meeting of the Charlotte segment of the Western N.C. group was our Auction and White Elephant Sale. This was a fun time for our group, catching up on summer events, eating each other's cooking and having a general iris fellowship.

A good supply of irises: TBs, SI and La were brought for sale. Jim partington, former AIS member and long time local member of CIS, brought some interesting personal items from his home. Some of these were valuable and excited several bidders, which made for fun for all and was a great help to our treasury. (Jim had recently lost his wife, Isabel who had been an avid gardener, and was also former an AIS member as well as a good member of CIS.

The November meeting featured Pat Rodgers, a local landscape consultant and an expert on Wild Flowers, including a number of species and beardless irises]. She showed slides from her wild flower collection - dividing them into sections according to cultural requirements, such as ones which need a wet or boggy situation and various requirements of semi-wet or dry soil for their growth. This made the talk and slides more interesting as we were able to tell which ones would suit our normal

soil situation. Pat works through the Garden Council and is a popular speaker on this subject. We were fortunate to be able to have her share her knowledge with us.

One of the outstanding slides was a huge clump of *I. Virginica* growing in a boggy situation. She also grows *Cristata*, *Tectorum*, *Pseudacorus* and a number of Louisiana.

To add to the delight of this meeting, Pat joined our local group and we hope that she will see fit to become an AIS member as well.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Thanks to those of you who have sent articles from time to time for Newscast. We want to encourage more and more members to write for this publication. It's yours, and the more contributors we have, the less likely will there be criticism.

We have had suggestions for more pictures, and we hereby appeal to you to send photos to us for use. The glossy black and white prints work best for our use, since the cost of color is next to impossible. However, if you have a good slide with contrast, have a black and white print made and send for our use. This will save time, and the Region some money, to have these ready to go to the printer.

Also, let us have your suggestions for improvement of your publication. We have received numerous compliments on Newscast, but we do want to maintain the standard which we have set for excellence in this publication.

If you have questions that you would like some of our long-time growers to answer - Send them to us. We will print the questions, and hope that some of the experts will furnish your answer.

HOOKED ON SIBERIANS
by Katharine Steele - from NCIS
Bulletin 56, Fall, 1983

Do you ever get the feeling when being introduced to someone, that you have known them all your life? As you get to know that person better, they mesh so compatibly with your lifestyle that your life just would not be as fulfilling without them. Forgive me if I compare a plant to a person, but you get the message.

Like that new friend, the Siberian Irises have found that important niche with me. Although we have been growing them for only four years, it seems they have belonged here forever. Our garden would not be complete without them.

This spring as blooming season approached, there was special excitement as new plantings would surely bloom in our garden for the first time. In spite of low temperatures of 28 degrees on April 19th, the Siberians looked very promising. The Louisianas had been totally lost and the TBs had some obvious cold damage.

Although our peak bloom was more than a week late for the Region 4 Convention, the users of the jogging and bike trail across the creek were vocal in their appreciation of the "show".

A clump of Siberians in full bloom is a picture in motion, with nice spiked foliage and flowers in tints, tones and shades of blue, purple, violet, white or yellow, dancing in the breeze. (Our garden now includes seventy named varieties.) They are compatible with other perennials in the garden, their foliage is attractive until frost, they are happy with minimal care, and the clumps increase nicely while "staying put". This extremely hot and dry summer attests to their endurance, but they do appreciate the occasional watering.

As the bloom season progressed it was interesting to compare varieties, note their special qualities

and select a temporary favorite.

The first to bloom were MY LOVE, SKY WINGS and SUMMER SKY on about April 30th. Plants with nice branching included MARANATHA and COOL SPRING; with wide branching and 5 buds per stem, NAVY BRASS, PANSY PURPLE; and MY LOVE with 4 buds; and PERRY'S PYGMY with mostly 6 buds per stem. Some seemed to be in a contest for most stems per clump. These multifloriferous bloomers were PERRY'S PYGMY with 50 stalks on a medium clump, (multiply that by up to 6 buds per stem and what a show you get!); and MY LOVE with 35 on a medium. EGO, COOL SPRING, MISS DULUTH and BLUE BURGEE were others in the running. BLUE BURGEE blooms low in the foliage, so I deducted a few points for this, but then I added them back when I cut so many for a flower arrangement for the dining room.

The latest to bloom (end of May) were: BUTTER AND SUGAR, RUFFLED VELVET, ROANOKE'S CHOICE, EWEN, SUPER EGO, WING ON WING and SEA SHADOWS. This was the first year for these to bloom so next year, I'll check again.

Repeat bloomers worth noting on June 1st through June 12th were: RUBY WINE, SEA SHADOWS, MY LOVE, and ON AND ON. By the way, the best way to define a repeat bloomer is to say that after the first bloom, the plant does an encore. Repeat blooms on MY LOVE consisted of 7 nice stalks compared to 35 initially and ON AND ON with best repeat bloom of 11 compared to 17 initially. Actually ON AND ON doesn't totally stop blooming between, so it really does live up to it's name.

Outstanding for it's color is McGarvey's BUTTER AND SUGAR, a refreshing specimen with yellow falls and pale standards. McEwen's RUFFLED VELVET is outstanding for it's form. It is a velvety reddish purple with excellent substance and lots of ruffles. McGarvey's WIN ON WING is a lovely white with flaring petals. (I like to sprinkle whites throughout the plantings to compliment and contrast the other colors.) McGarvey's ROANOKE'S CHOICE

which opens pink and changes to violet is a definite favorite. McGarvey's PINK HAZE, as some other Fall 1982 plantings, did not bloom this year, but it should be nice. It is difficult to pick favorites, but check the number of times MY LOVE is listed above, and you can see why it is one. It's color is nice too - a lovely medium blue.

Our garden is by necessity located in a flood plain. When the occasional flood comes and covers every tip of green foliage with muddy water, it is upsetting - to put it mildly. As the water recedes, the Siberians have not only held steadfast, but the foliage has shed all the sediment. We just pick out the debris and that part of the garden is "recouperating fine, thank you".

I see indications all around among gardeners that I am not alone in my enthusiasm. A local nursery in Charlotte sold out it's supply in short order. Persons coming to our garden are quick to ask where they can be obtained. Also, newer varieties and colors make present growers want to plant more. Another indication is that we are seeing more and more Siberians on the show table.

Get 'um growing in N.C.!!

(Ed.: and Region 4)....

EXCERPTS FROM REGIONAL ROBINS:

From "The Wild Ones" - Species and Beardless Irises

8/16/83 - Alma Childers: PCN's live best if they are transplanted out of beds or containers when they are about 3 inches tall.

9/7/83 John Wood: Iris Ensata, as such, which should be designated as *I. Biglumis*, is an Asiatic species, tough leaved, deep rooted with small, delicate, pale or deeper lavender and white flowers. The Japanese irises of gardens are all derived from the one species *I. Ensata* Thunb. but in common usage called *I. Kaempferi*. In the definitive work of Kuribaiyashi and Hirao (1971), it is stated that the botanical name of Japanese iris is *I. Ensata* Thunb., but explain that they have adopted the name *I. Laempferi*, at present in common use, to avoid confusion in their work.

9/9/83 I planted the seeds from the light lavender mixed 40's, or Siberians, and now have six or seven seedlings 3 or 4" tall, and my lavender vesper iris is blooming so prettily. Virginia Rowland.

9/19/83 Wyatt LeFever: If any of you have had problems sprouting LA seed, I find that if I put them in a plastic bag, with damp peatmoss, in the fridge for 6 or 8 months, they will sprout right in the bag.

8/16/83: Alma Childers: John, I don't know if it will work for *I. setosa* and *I. pseudacorus* pollen, but I keep pollen from SDBs and TBs for months. Let the pollen dry. Fold in a paper, label as to date, etc. I use a large peanut butter jar with a drying agent with the trade name "Flower Dry". Put the package of pollen in a smaller jar, then in the large one covered with the drying material. In the freezer it will keep for a year.

8/20/83 Ruby Buchanan: Virginia, about those *I. tenax* and PCN (Pacific Coast Natives, ed) seedlings just rotting away - try putting a parasol over them (or shield from too much rain during hot weather). One of the things I remember from the PCN Almanac is:

"They can stand cold, wet weather and hot dry weather - but can NOT endure hot WET weather."

8/20/83 Ruby Buchanan: Try putting your TB iris seeds in the refrigerator after you harvest them until time to plant them outside in October. A bit of peatmoss in a plastic bag with each lot is said to increase germination later.

10/6/83 Alma Childers Hamlin, WV.: I have only one TET Siberian. Has anyone else noticed that they have nice fat pods, but few good seed?

10/20/83 Ruby Buchanan, Winston-Salem, N.C.: There must be 150 surplus LA rhizomes here at present. There is a #3 washtub full of Clyde Redmon along. Perry Dyer calls Clyde Redmond "The Weed".

10/31/83 John Wood, mooresboro, N.C.: Ruby, The I. versicolor x I. virginica cross I gave you is a very robust plant and the flower is a beautiful cobalt blue. I got that one from Lorena Reed and it bloomed two seasons running so should perform well for you.

The LAs look super and are growing prolifically I had worked into the area where I planted them acid fertilizer and cottonseed meal. They will be so sleek and green the insects will slide off.....

11/10 Virginia Rowland, Goose Creek, S.C.: I think hybridizing is the greatest game of all.....

From the General Interest "Ramblin' Robin."

Summer 83 - Tim Davis, Hagerstown, Md.: I'm afraid its Bon Voyage to you all. My father has been transferred out to work in Riverside, California. I will be attending Loma Linda University in the Fall to take a Commercial Horticulture Course. I move August 21st.

Southern California is an iris haven. No fuss with rot, underground varmits, no soil fussing, no pests. Louise, do you want to join me? Oh how lucky I am!!!!

7/23/83 Clarence Mahan, McLean, Va.:If you will pardon the pun, not a "borer" in the lot. Speaking of which, after 4 short years of absence, our delightful friend the borer decided to visit the Mahan garden again. No Southern Hospitality has he/she received here, I assure you. Suky and I had, however deluded ourselves into believing we had licked the ol' borer once and for all. What a dream world we were living in! Well, I have been cleaning, cutting, digging, etc. - you will know the experience. We wouldn't feel so bad if we hadn't developed such a foolish sense of false security.....

The most beautiful flower in my patch this year was Melba Hamblen's INFINITE GRACE, a truly unique approach to the illusive pink amoena (very slight fragrance, Louise). A first year plant, it produced only two terminal blooms, but what gorgeous form and color; the standards are not pure white (pinkish tint, especially toward the base), but the falls are a bold, deep pink with a lighter rim; beards are red, tipped white. I got takes both ways with Dave Niswonger's MELON SUPREME, which I would describe as a true peach amoena with very nice branching, and good height, vigor, and strong stalks. Another iris that really struck my fancy out back was PURPLE STREAKER. A first year plant also, it put up a very well branched bloom stalk, opening 3 perfectly formed flowers almost at the moment (I ruined it trying to get it to the FSK show). Perhaps some people will find its deep rich purple with lighter streaks too exotic for their tastes - I find it breath-takingly lovely. Niswonger's LILAC THRILL, a lovely pale, pale lilac, put one fine display on for a first year iris - got a lot of "ohs and ahs). Among the rebloomers, Lloyd's VIOLET MIRACLE and LOVE'S ALLURE were very nice performers. LATEST STYLE was pretty, but the falls have too much of a faded appearance to really turn me on. Not being partial to yellows, one that I very much appreciated was Opal Brown's BIG DIPPER, lovely pale yellow self with a large white area on the falls and beautiful golden beards. A very appealing flower form with fluting and lace. Only 4 blooms this year, but I expect it will do much more next year.

I am working on building a collection of peach and pink amoenas, both for my own modest hybridizing efforts and as a basis for determining the standards in this

color class. It has been my experience that the gardens I have been able to visit either have none, or at least one or two in this class. As of now, I have acquired PEACH SPOT, CORAL STRAND, JAVA CHARM, CORAL BEAUTY, JUNE SUNSET, CHARM OF EDEN, INVITATION, INFINITE GRACE, and ALMOST GLADYS. PINK TEPEE, Gadd 83, should be coming in the mail shortly. Also, I have LITTLE SUSIE in the BB class. Your advice and suggestions on other worthy pink/peach amoenas will be very much appreciated. (I almost forgot MELON SUPREME).

9/21/83 Alma Childers, Hamlin, WV.: I have received all of my iris orders but one. Because of the dry weather the newly set iris have not made much growth.

Clarence, regarding irises with pink amoena breeding, I have Baby's Bonnet and Sunset Snows. This year I purchased MARSHMALLOW WORLD (Hardy '72) Its description reads: "pure white standards, seashell pink falls; beard white tipped pink....."

Ruby, I was grateful for my irises that did bloom. It makes me more sure than ever that Siberians will always have a place with me. Vespers have survived below zero temperatures. They do have a tendency to die out after a few years, but the seed germinate easily. Regarding Roundup, what I like about it is the fact that it only kills what it is put on. Re. I. verna, N.C. is listed as being a native State of this species.

9/28/83 Ruby Buchanan, Winston-Salem, N.C.: First of all, I'm still trying to find room for the TB irises received recently. I won't be a "borer" and list the 81 additions which came to me in 1983, but I do have about 25 possible rebloomers now, with IMMORTALITY and BROTHER CARL as the newest ones. Only ENGLISH COTTAGE and CORN HARVEST have defied the drought and produced stalks at this time.....

B.J., I meant to give you those stalks of CORN HARVEST to take to the fall show in Harrisonburg, but forgot. The terminal bloom was open for 6 days. I have enjoyed the Newscast again this time. A super job - always!

Nancy, I found my first ugly borers when digging the LA iris. UG-LY!! I had drenched thos rhizomes with Cygon 2-E last fall and again in the spring - but

but some rhizomes were riddled.....

Louise, I only got two TB pods, with seeds - several fat pods without a seed inside. I had scads of versicolor seeds however and Siberians.

After seeing thos monstrous borers in my iris, I think the ones in your pods must have been verbena moth or flea beetle larvae. No way could those little fellers develop into those monsters which murdered my LA rhizomes. The Extension Agent tried to tell me that it was "too late for iris borers - they are pupate at this time" - not in my garden! The ones I found were the first iris borers I had ever seen - after growing irises for about 25 years. Now I'm having to rework the TB irises adjacent to the LA bed, but have found no borers, so far, in those.

Clarence: I' still fighting "chrysanthemum weed", but I'm sure Roundup will kill it. Trouble is, there are acres of the pest nearby which I am not free to Roundup. Anything which kills poison ivy and honeysuckle would certainly go after those "pervasive roots".

10/26/83

Nancy Karriker, Kannapolis, N.C. : Update on mole situation: The chrysanthemum bed is near the woods. The moles tunnel their way through our neighbor's yard to this bed. A visitor to the garden told me that his mother advised him how to "get" the moles. She said that if you will flatten all the runs in the morning, then watch for them around 12 noon to 1 PM, the mole will be returning to the nest to rest. The first day I tried this, it didn't work, and I never could figure it out; until my husband told me that the moles were not on "daylight savings time". So the next day I followed instructions, and lo & behold - about ten past one (since the mole was not on daylight savings time), with shovel in hand, I watched the industrious creature re-making his/her run on the way back to the nest. I quickly dug down and threw him out on top of the ground. I have killed two this way. I see no further evidence of moles at this time. Now, I know this does not "jive" with the scientific information in Encyclopedia Britannica, but "by cracky", it worked!

11/3/83 J.D.Stadler, Reidsville, N.C.: Alma, I keep adding to my Siberians also. Somehow I managed to outbid everyone at the Auction for Roanoke's Choice which is one of the forerunner to pink. Actually it is lavender pink. I also have about 50 seedlings that will bloom in the spring. I did not add to the Japanese this year, but am sure that was just an oversight.

Ruby: I did add a few TBs this year, and at the top of my want list was David Mohr's SPANISH SERENADE. Also added some of Gibson's plics, and a couple of new oranges to add to my orange line..... Sorry you lost some of your Siberians. I never try moving Siberians, Japanese or Louisianas until Fall. We are so hot here that it just does not pay.

11/11/83 Louise Smith, Williamsburg, Va.: J.D., Wow! Am I ever impressed by that lovely pink-rimmed iris whose snapshot you are sending around. Is it fragrant? If it is I truly want a rhizome of it next year. I only got 6 new irises this year.....I am still in love with TBs and Rebloomers, can hardly spare space for any other kind or for daylilies.

(Ed.-J.D.Stadler's seedling is a cross from his seedling D-2-10 (white with blue rim on falls) X Dream Romance. He is naming it Celestial Dream, and will introduce it in 1984. This is really a lovely iris and should go far when introduced.)

Louise Smith's comments continued:I have just finished planting my this-year seeds, and as soon as I make a map of them I will feel free to hang up my gardening tools for the winter..Well...almost, but not quite -for we are driving out tomorrow to get our first-this-year trailer load of pine needles for mulching, and then we must collect all our humongrous pile of oak leaves and mulch them all, for putting thickly in all the pathways.

Even after the second spraying with Cygon E-2, I still found several borers.....I think I know why so many survived around the edges. The young man who did the spraying said he was told not to spray any evergreen shrubs especially hollies, as Cygon would

damage them. I told him to spray every shrub anyway, but I thought he did - but maybe he didn't lay it on them as thickly as I had hoped.....

Someone mentioned horse manure - we don't know where to get it any more. We finally got talked into buying two trailers of city-processed compost. They swore it didn't smell - but oh how wrong they were!! Two neighbors came over to see what was 'wrong' in our yard. After two weeks it smelled only a little, but you know you are not to use it where vegetables are ever expected to be grown, as they cannot kill the bad viruses in it, so that eliminates our iris beds in the back yard, as we may someday rather grow food than beauty. (I am referring to Edgar Cayce's warnings about what is to happen before the year 2000).

The Robin - Royal Four, Reblooming Iris Robin was held up for months, but is now in circulation again. We are quoting a good bit of Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg's letter as a summary of things happening in the Rebloomer Section; and as a special Rebloomer Report.

"This spring was a big disappointment here as in so many other places. Only the late-blooming tall did really well. I had excellent displays on the following iris: GRAND BAROQUE, VIOLET CLASSIC, TUDOR ENGLAND, SAPPHIRE HILLS. This summer, the "pioneers" among the rebloomers were held back by drought, and began only in the latter part of August. IMMORTALITY was first again, with BROTHER CARL coming along shortly thereafter. SIGN OF LEO gave a stalk in late August, and I crossed it with IMMORTALITY each way, and got a pod from both crosses. However, it was too late to make crosses in September, so those two pods were "it" for this summer-fall.

"Region 4's Show in Harrisonburg found most people with few stalks to enter because of the drought. I took along three stalks each of IMMORTALITY and BROTHER CARL, and a couple of inferior ones of BABY BLESSED. The judges insisted that at least one stalk of BROTHER CARL be "pruned". I removed the bottom two branches and then it won Queen

Of Show, - or should one say "King Of Show". I counted buds on the three stalks of BROTHER CARL and found the bud count 15, 17, 17. In the garden these stalks give what i call a "sheaf" effect, holding the blooms sufficiently apart to show off quite well. However, it is not the standard show-bench style, which is why the pruning had to take place. IMMORTALITY, on the other hand, has a low bud count, and is a bit too short to look well on the show-bench. I still prefer its flowers, but BROTHER CARL looked really grand this fall, and although its stalks are not ram-rod straight, they were not "snaky".

This spring, the best advances were among the flounced and spooned seedlings, all of which bloom late. There is a beautifully-flounced orchid one from SPRIGHTLY AIR X TRUMPET CONCERTO that may be worth introducing. Another Trumpet Concerto seedling is almost a table iris in size, stalk and branching, and it had three buds in the terminal and on the lowest branch, giving it very, very long season. It lasted until June 16th! It also set two good pods full of seeds, and kept its flounces until the last flowers.

Among the rebloomers, two yellow seedlings showed up best, but neither thought it prudent to attempt a fall stalk in a year of such drought. One is from (Magic Memories x Key Lime) X Corn Harvest. It set three good pods full of seeds, and still had lots of good increase. The great feature of this seedling is that it has the excellent fragrance of the pod parent, perhaps to an even greater degree. Nita is not fond of iris fragrances, but she likes this one. I find it entirely free of muskiness, sweet and strong. It has only fair form, but has superb stalks and branching, good texture, and does not fade.

The second yellow seedling has better form, and equally excellent stalks, but not the wonderful fragrance.....It set two pods of the yellow seedling above.....

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, REGION 4 - BOARD
MARYLAND, N.CAROLINA, VA. WV, DISTR OF COLUMBIA

Regional Vice President - B. J. Brown, 11026 Steele
Creek Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28210
Phone: 704 588 1783.

Assistant RVP -David G. Walsh, Route 3, Box 100-K,
Broadway, Va. 22815

Immediate Past RVP - Claire Barr (Mrs. Wm.),
1910 Green Spring Valley Rd., Stevenson, Md. 21153
Phone 301 486 5214

Secretary - Willa White Owens, Box 214, Bozman, Md.21412
Phone 301 745 9645

Treasurer - Norman R. Clouser, Route 2, Box 6,
Gladstone, Va. 24553 Phone 804 933 8275

Historian - Polly Price (Mrs. A. H.), Route 1, Box 51,
Summerfield, N.C. 27358

Parliamentarian - Rosalie Figge (Mrs. Frank H.J.)
4 Maryland Avenue, Towson, Md. 21204

Editor Newscast - Frances Brown (Mrs. B.J.),
11026 Steele Creek Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28210

Conventions - Clarence E. Mahan, 7311 Churchill Road,
McLean, Va. 22101

Judges Training - Mr & Mrs. William E. Barr,
1910 Green Spring Valley Road, Stevenson, Md 21153
Phone 301 486 5214

Finance Committee - Dr. A. W. Rice, 2817 Avenham Ave.,
S.W., Roanoke, Va. 24014

Membership Committee - Helen Rucker (Mrs. J.E.)
3205 Pineland Road, S.W., Roanoke, Va. 24018

Auctions & Awards - J.D.Stadler, 1613 Country Club Rd.,
Reidsville, N.C. 27320

Median Irises - Mr. Richard Sparling, 18016 LaFayette Drive, Olney, Md. 20832 - Phone 301 774 4151

Youth - Mrs. Nancy H. Schuhmann, 6520 Walters Woods Drive, Falls Church, Va., 22044

Reblooming Irises - Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, 708 Noblin Street, Radford, Va., 24142

Exhibitions - Miss Victoria R. Dorf, 841 Glen Allen Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21229

Robins - Mrs. Doris Simpson (Mrs. T.W.), 200 Ridge-medede Road, Baltimore, Md. 21210

Photography - Dr. D. C. Nearpass - 9526 50th Place, College Park, Md. 20740 Ph 301 345 3324

Publicity & Public Relations - Mrs. Rena Crumpler, 2521 Wycliffe Avenue, SW, Roanoke, Va. 24014

C & P Chapter Chairman - Mr. Richard Sparling, 18016 LaFayette Drive, Olney, Md. 20832

Marydel Chapter Chairman - Mr. R. W. Hartge, Jr., P.O.Box 155, Grasonville, Md. 21638

Southern WV - Inactive
Norfolk, Va - Inactive

Western N.C. - Mrs. Elizabeth Farrar, P.O.Box 263, Mt. Holly, N.C. 28120

Eastern N.C. - Mrs. Polly (A.H.) Price, Rt 1, Box 51, Summerfield, N.C. 27358

Blue Ridge Chapter - Mrs. Helen (J.E.) Rucker, 3205 Pineland Road, SW, Roanoke, Va. 24018
Phone: 703 774 5682

Francis Scott Key Chapter, J.Owings Rebert, 152 Leister's Church Road, Westminster, Md. 21157

Central WV Chapter - Inactive
Greenbrier Chapter - Inactive
Richmond Chapter - Inactive

NEWSCAST is published Tri-annually; in January, April and September. It is free to all members of Region 4, A.I.S.; subscription rate to non-members of Region 4 is \$3.00 per year.

Permission is granted to reprint any article appearing in Newscast unless otherwise specified, provided proper credit is given.

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page	-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	\$25.00
One-Half page	-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	15.00
One-Fourth page	-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	8.00
Vommrcial Directory	- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	2.75

Deadlines for receipt of articles and materials for Newscast by Editors as follows:

- For January issue - last full week of December.
- For April issue - last full week of March
- For September issue - last full week of August

Cover - Mary Elizabeth (Bebe) Brown

Have You Considered A GREENHOUSE or SOLARIUM ?

Take a moment to consider the advantages of:

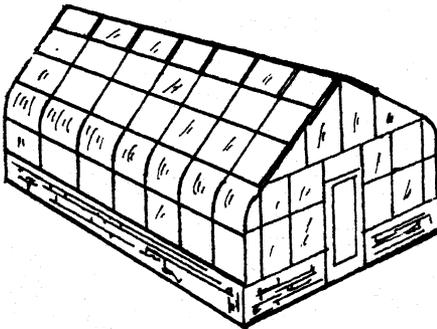
- . gardening all year 'round
- . starting plants, seedlings and bulbs well before the last frost
- . harvesting fresh vegetables in January!
- . extending your living space with an area to both grow and enjoy your plants.

Where can you put one? Virtually anywhere you can think of--off the kitchen, over the porch, or freestanding in your backyard. We offer three styles--lean-to, freestanding, and window--sized to meet your needs, with either single or insulated glazing.

All of our greenhouses are professionally installed and guaranteed.

For more information, write or call:

Nita or Dave Botzenmayer
Five-B Enterprises
1415 Drexel Place
Charlotte, North Carolina 28209
(704) 523-1660



 ** BULK RATE **
 ** U.S. POSTAGE **
 ** P A I D **
 ** CHARLOTTE, N.C. **
 ** PERMIT #3034 **

INDEX

RVP MESSAGE FOR JANUARY, 1984 - B.J.Brown--	1
MINUTES OF FALL BOARD MEETING - Willa Owens	3
TREASURER'S REPORT	9
HYBRIDIZER, DR. D. C. NEARPASS - C. Mahan	10
TOUR GARDENS SPRING MEETING 1984	14
THE GARDEN OF MARGARET THOMAS - C.Mahan	15
THE GARDEN OF CLARENCE AND SUKY MAHAN - c. Mahan-	16
THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM - C. Mahan	17
RIVER FARM - C. Mahan	18
THE GARDEN OF CELESTE & CHARLES COX - C.Cox	19
ARIL-MEDS IN MARYLAND - R C Sparling	21
IRIS CALENDAR	22
American Horticultural Society - Award	23
MEMBERSHIP REPORT (12/1/83) H.Rucker	24
Mulching - Lois Grimes	25
THE STEELE GARDEN - Brian Lazarus	26
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAPTER REPORT -Doris Simpson	27
CORRECTIONS - Marydell Sept Report	28
C & P Chapter Report - C. Mahan	29
BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER - H.Rucker	31
FSK CHAPTER REPORT - Owings Rebert	32
WESTERN N.C.CHAPTER	33
EDITOR'S COMMENT	34
HOOKED ON SIBERIANS - Katharine Steele	35
EXCERPTS FROM REGION ROBINS - Wild Ones	38
EXCERPTS FROM REGION ROBINS - General Interest	39
REBLOOMING IRIS - Lloyd Zurbrigg	44
REGION 4 BOARD PERSONNEL	46