

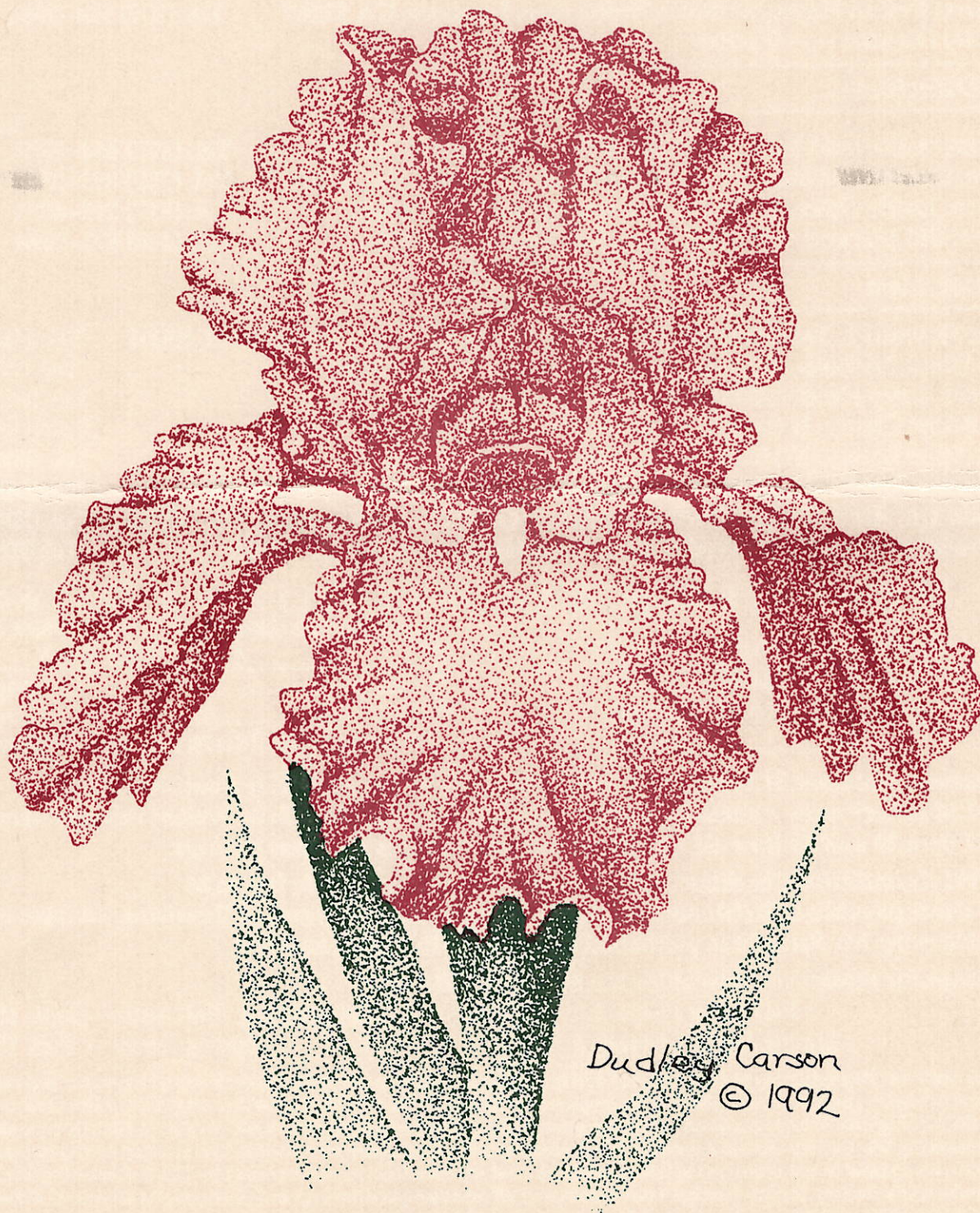
THE

REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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Dudley Carson
© 1992

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Life.....	\$80.00	

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The 1991 Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Irises is available for \$6.00

Make checkpayable to Reblooming Iris Society and mail to Howard Brookins, address above

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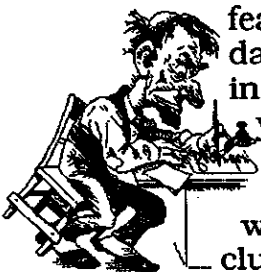
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EDITOR'S MESSAGE: Some comments have been received regarding the "Off The Wall" feature. It has been suggested that I wind up with half a page to fill... and dash off any drivel that enters my 'stream of consciousness.' Not so. The item in this issue's 'OTW' has been worked on, in fits and starts, over the past three years. 'Off The Walls' don't just happen!



One question has been raised—why not print portions of letters that praise the publication? Although editors live and die for a kind word it would be puffery of the worst kind to include that herein. Instead, I just clutch them next to my heart on the late, cold, nights when the computer's screen glares blue and empty and the unfilled pages stretch endlessly on.

A legion of supportive readers have responded with material— without *you* this issue would never have seen the inside of a Post Office. Thank you—and please do not stop writing, calling, clipping material—the next deadline, always, is just around the corner ☺

Nominating Committee Report

The committee is constituted as follows:

Immediate Past President John Weiler, CA, Chairman
Senior Director Lottie Ogles, TX (Southern Area)
Member-at-Large Garland Bare, NE

Some explanation of our activity (or lack of activity) is in order. Normally, nominations are made by a committee before the copy deadline for the fall issue of the *Recorder*. Officers' terms are staggered so as to have some continuity in leadership; therefore certain officers are elected each year. Since the Nominating Committee was not constituted in 1991, no nominations could be made for inclusion in the 1991 Fall *Recorder*. The committee was formally constituted during the second half of February, 1992. Some potential candidates were contacted, but serious illness and other problems among committee members prevented any definitive action until mid-March—too late for the Spring *Recorder*. This meant that no elections could be held at the Atlanta meeting and some officers who were due to be replaced stayed on until nominations could be made.

A special trip was made by the committee chairman to Nebraska during October, not only to visit the first accredited reblooming iris show in Region 21, but also to discuss nominating committee assignments with Dr. Garland Bare. The work begun eight months earlier had to be started anew since so much time had elapsed.

A number of people were asked to serve as officers. Names of those who have agreed to serve and who are recommended by the committee appear below, and the committee submits the following slate for consideration in Dallas:

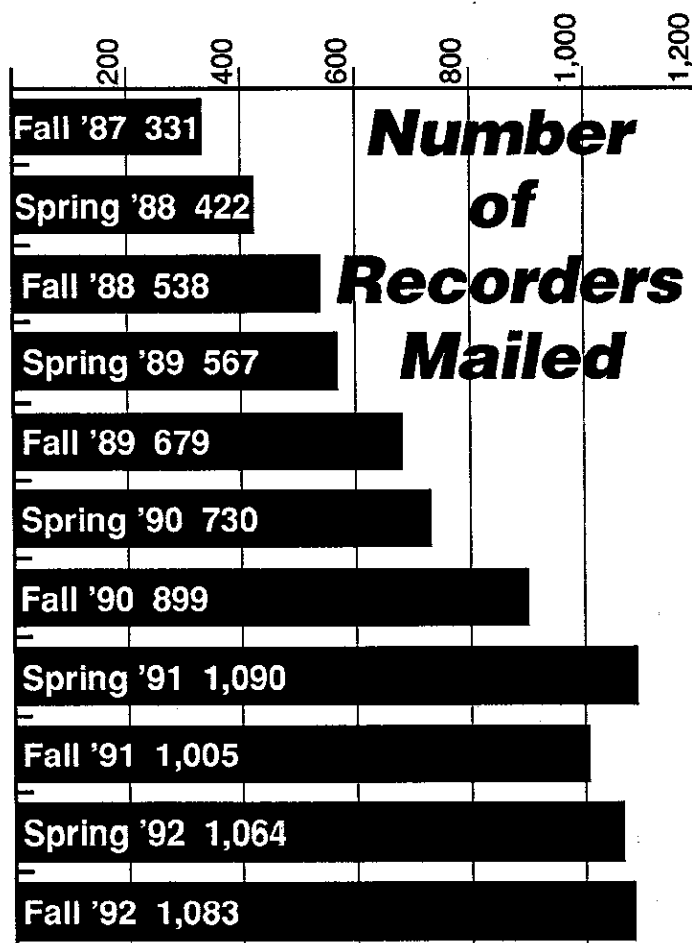
President—**John Weiler**, CA
Vice-President—**Garland Bare**, NE
Secretary—**Sara Marley**, VA
Treasurer—**Evelyn Hayes**, CA
Southern Regional Director
 (Regions: 5, 10, 17, 22, 23, 24)—**Judith Earp**, TX

Midwest Regional Director, to fill unexpired term of Garland Bare
 (Regions: 6, 8, 9, 18, 21)—**Opal Wulf**, NE
Publicity Chairperson—**Howard Brookins**, WI

Although there are other elective positions expiring this year, the committee recommends that only one regional director be elected each year so that sequential replacement of directors can be maintained. With pending changes in the By-laws affecting both type of office and length of terms, any further changes should be postponed until after members have voted on the proposed bylaws.

John Weiler
 John Weiler, Chairman
 Lottie Ogles
 Garland Bare

The graph below was compiled from postage receipts taken from the last 11 *Recorder* mailings. It shows number of memberships. Actual count of individual members is higher, now averaging 150-200 more than mailings because of family memberships. *Editor*



Charlie Brown
Fort Worth TX

15 Jan., '93

Dear RIS members,

Thanks for the patience with things this last year. If you will look at your mailing label, the expiration date has been added. I will continue to send out reminder cards this next spring, but check your label and if your membership expires 93/01, please send your renewal. All memberships expire either January 1 or July 1 of the year.

Everyone this year has or will have received two issues of the Recorder so don't think we are shorting you if you receive a reminder. If you change your address, please drop me a note so that I can update my file. The post office will not forward bulk mail bulletins. I normally send the editor an updated mailing label list two weeks before the Recorder is mailed.

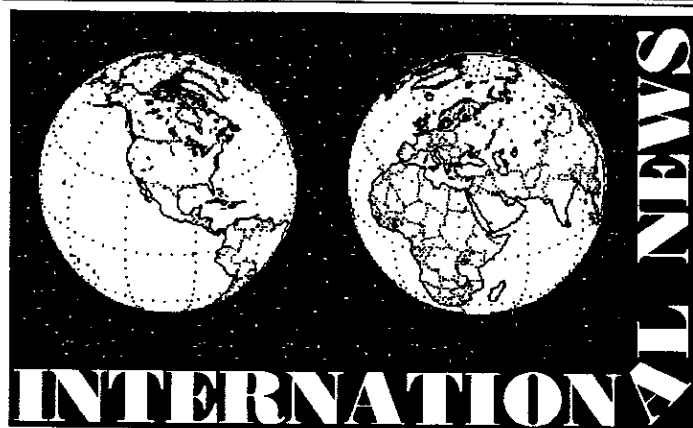
Some who sent money in July through December of 1992 will get a reminder to pay again in January or February of this year since you will get last year's Spring and Fall issues. Thanks for bearing with us.

This spring should start out on schedule and I hope to see everyone in Ft Worth for the convention—I am looking forward to your visiting my garden during the '93 Spring National.

Sincerely,

Charlie

Charlie Brown
Membership Sec.



Submitted by John Weiler

Thomas, Bürge, Münchwilen, Switzerland

Since my garden at Bettwiesen was planted on land to be built upon, I had to dig up all my plants last July. Since then, the irises have grown in pots where they await better times. Indeed, growing irises in pots successfully is an almost impossible task in Switzerland. Due to freezing and thawing, rain and snow during winter months, I lost many TBs and Japanese irises whereas the Siberian irises have not been harmed. But now the future looks very promising.

We shall move to a wonderful place on the other side of the same village, Bettwiesen, where the soil will be most suitable for TBs and the site very protected from the wind. The garden will be ready to be cultivated from June 15th on...and I shall put all my hybridizing efforts into reblooming irises!

Seedlings will grow under polyethylene tunnels for better evaluation of plants that could be called "mild climate rebloomers." My experience has shown that if I select only seedlings which do rebloom in this climate, I shall lose many plants that have the potential to rebloom in milder areas or are promising parents. I wonder if there are other criteria for a successful selection of non-reblooming seedlings from reblooming parents.

Since all reblooming irises have been grown in pots since last July, I can't give a complete reblooming iris report. However, irises that rebloomed were: **Fire on Ice** - October, unfortunately the plant rotted in winter; **Lovely Again**; **Brother Carl** - September, had never rebloomed before; **Immortality** - September & October; **Pink Attraction** - October; **I Do** - August; and **Belvi**

Queen. This spring **Stellar Lights** bloomed out completely with 5 bloom stalks from one rhizome. Although I pollinated it, it didn't set any seed pods.

A Halloween Halo seedling, 88-171-11 Weiler, has been marvelous! I am very, very happy with it although it hasn't shown much increase. I got two seed pods on it with pollen from the most reliable **Belvi Queen** and also use it to pollinate a re-blooming seedling. All together I got only a few, but for me very interesting, seed pods last spring because it was very rainy during the whole iris season. Another Weiler seedling from remontant lines, 85-101-1, also grew very well and it seems to be very resistant to adverse weather. The standards are somewhat open but that could be due to the rainy weather.

For spring bloomers, I should also mention **Hot Pink** which grew like crazy until I dug it last summer. It flowered three wonderfully branched stalks and it has survived the winter well in a small pot. ☺

1992 AIS Awards to Reblooming Cultivars

compiled by Anne Lowe

[A listing of location where rebloom has been reported follows each cultivar]

✪ M E D A L S ✪

DYKES MEDAL

Runner-up

Edith Wolford (Hager) CA

KNOWLTON MEDAL

Runner-up

Music Box Dancer (Roderick) CA

COOK DOUGLAS MEDAL

Sun Doll (B. Jones) CA, KS, OK, OR, TX, WA

Runners-up

Jewel Baby (E. Hall) CA, IL, KS, KY, MD, MO, NE, OH, TX, UT, VA, WA
Little Annie (Niswonger) CA

AWARD OF MERIT

MDB Tiny Cherub (Hager) CA

SDB Cherry Tart (T. Aitken) VA

BB Peach Petals (Niswonger) Germany, Australia

TB Supreme Sultan (Schreiner's) CA,
Rustler (Keppel) CA
Fringe Benefits (Hager) CA, OR

Runner-up

Stellar Lights (T. Aitken) CA, KS,
MS, OR, TX, UT, WA

HONORABLE MENTION

MDB Perfume (Byers) CA, IA, MO, NE,
OH, TX, UT, VA, WA

SDB Cimarron Rose (H. Nichols) CA, OK
Kiwi Slices (Niswonger) CA
Ruby Locket (Niswonger) CA, OR
Rainbow Sherbet (Weiler) CA, IA,
TX, VA, WA, England, Holland
Blitz (Weiler) AZ, CA, NE, WA
Dark Crystal (Byers) CA, MO, NE,
UT, WA

IB Candy Floss (Keppel) CA, UT

BB Lenora Pearl (H. Nichols) CA, OK, VA
Faux Pas (Keppel) mild climates

TB Caribbean Dream (Schreiner's) WA
Churchill Downs (K. Mohr) WA
Scandia Delight (Schreiner's) OR
Double Agent (Maryott) CA, TX
Golden Galaxy (Weiler) TX
Romanticist (Keppel) CA, UT

WALTHER CUP

Runners-up

Lenora Pearl, BB (H. Nichols) CA, OK, VA
Fauz Pas, BB (Keppel) mild climates

IN MEMORIAM

Isabelle Campbell, VA

Frank Charles, KS Ethel Young, CA

Hardy Fragrant Reblooming Iris for Everyone

Louise Clay Smith, VA

Once again; "The time has come," the walrus said, "to talk of many things... Remember when last you read that advice? Well, time again to heed those same words. Get ready to act! Make as many crosses as possible on those healthy, vigorous, already-hardy iris with the aim of creating hardy new plants. This must remain our overriding goal, **'Creation of hardiness in cultivars from this time forward!'**

Some select old-time plants have the hardiness desired—if not they never would have remained garden favorites.

Take to heart: hardiness can be segregated out and conserved regardless of the complexities of tetraploid genetics. Difficult yes; time-consuming and arduous also. But... *if* we make hardiness our goal as single mindedly as we have pursued width, ruffling and color, hardiness too is achievable. The beauty of the *flower* of modern iris bears witness to the do-ability of a firmly held objective. Study carefully the gene mix you believe has a chance of carrying your hardiness program forward. *Bottom line*—you cannot be certain that selected genes will carry over exactly what you want, but you will be more apt to get what you desire with careful planning. Cross two plants of weatherproof similarities and the resultant plants will—in an staggeringly small percentage—carry the desired vigor combined with the fragrance, size, color and

form that we so covet! Doesn't that sound simple? Developing plants that will have hardiness, beauty and fragrance is worth any sacrifice, including the time, money and effort this will take. Results will not be speedy, but will occur... at their own rate!

Remember: the path is long and winding but the reward is well worth the journey.

I suggest that we should be studying old hardy plants now in the calm, cold of winter-time; preparing a wish list now for the older, more attractive, most desirable irises (in your own region). Perhaps you have noticed the increase in the numbers of catalogs that are advertising "We have older irises for sale."

Recognition of worth for breeding stock as well as nostalgia has contributed to increased demand for older irises. The supply of hardy cultivars is not unlimited!

Pay attention to the local iris gardens as they begin to bloom; you can 'stake a claim' to those desirable varieties gardeners might share or sell. If they have grown them for years, this may be a good indicator of their hardiness. These are the kind of irises that will provide a foundation of strength to cross with the beautiful and fragrant varieties.

I would further suggest doing wide crosses as far as colors, bloom shapes and sizes are concerned. Remember how suddenly many unusual gorgeously shaped and sized blooms have appeared? How much

more exciting and interesting they became?

I remember hearing for many years that iris hybridizers who had double blooms, other odd appendages or even remontancy would destroy these unusual plants. I believe that there should be new groupings or classes



LOUISE COMBINES MAINTENANCE OF A LARGE IRIS PLANTING WITH HYBRIDIZING FOR FRAGRANCE AND REBLOOM AND IS A VISIONARY THINKER AND WRITER—AND RECENTLY CELEBRATED HER EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

for new irises such as: unusual shapes, unusual sizes, adaptation to different growing conditions, etc. Thus they could compete more equitably with each other.

Just visualize iris gardening in the future... irises will have changed so much in all ways, well able to provide good growth and bloom under many varying conditions. They may become adaptable to widely diverse climates, dry soils, wet soils—they may even bloom in the shade. Some even may adapt to growing in heavy grass and weeds, mulch, or crowded borders. Certainly I expect to have almost all blooms to be sweetly scented! Our goal: **fragrant, hardy, disease resistant, reblooming iris in every garden!** ☺

Reblooming Slides For Rent

Eighty newer reblooming iris slides in one set, mostly 70's and 80's introductions; another set of older introductions. Pay postage and insurance both ways. For more information contact: Diana Nicholls, 4724 Angus Dr., Gainesville, VA 22065



WANTED

SLIDES OF 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 AND 1993 Reblooming Iris

Your help is needed. We want to offer a new slide set featuring recent/new reblooming iris introductions. Your donations are greatly appreciated or send me your slide and I will duplicate it for the RIS. Get out your cameras. Also look through your existing slides. We currently have **NO** slides of repeating/reblooming beardless iris. Please send in your slides of beardless iris! ☺

FROM THE PROS

Last spring my wife was lamenting the fact that one of her brand new irises as well as one of my favorite reblooming BBs was suffering from 'bloom-out'. She went on to say, "Did you ever notice that bloom-out occurs only in your favorite or most expensive iris? That dog you could care less about is well behaved and goes on forever. Please get your camera and photograph this for our record." An wise and experienced irisarian friend made the following comments about the subject:

"Bloom-out is a phenomenon whereby every rhizome sends up one or more bloom-stalks. These rhizomes will never bloom again, but are often so depleted that there is nothing left at the end of the season to put toward increases. This is especially common among the so-called everbloomers whose stalks mature and bloom almost continuously. However, true bloom-out doesn't occur until optimum growing and weather conditions are present. Since this doesn't occur often, most varieties are safe and will live to bloom another day."

"So how do you avert disaster?" my wife inquired.

"While your first inclination may be to yank the offending rhizome out of the ground or replace it immediately, be patient. Cut the bloom stalk a bit high so as to divert all possible plant energy into making an increase. If the rhizome is firm, fertilize immediately and water generously—in short, coddle it a bit. You may find that you are able to reverse the apparent course of nature. If the iris is not a favorite, don't bother and you will probably have a spot for a new one by fall. One further note: Varieties which tend to bloom out consistently should be noted and, unless they have genetic or sentimental value, *should be replaced* with a similar cultivar which will have more lasting power." ☺

MINUTES RIS Board Meeting

April 28, 1992
Atlanta, Georgia

The 1992 RIS Board meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM by President Howard Brookins who determined that a quorum was present.

The Secretary declined to take minutes. Anne Lowe (VA) was appointed Secretary pro tempore.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Editor's Report: Mike Lowe reported that the Spring Recorder could not be sent to the printer until an accurate membership count tells him the number to have printed. Mailing cannot not take place until labels are printed and sent. Lowe then addressed the need for revision of the present Recorder Ad Policy. The cost is too little when the editor must design and typeset the entire ad, often from sketchy information. After discussion, the following recommendations were made:

1. Charges for **camera ready ads** will be:
Full page—\$45
Half page—\$25
Quarter page—\$15
eighth page—\$10

Ads that are not camera ready are subject to case-by-case negotiation between editor and advertiser. Lowe moved, Brown seconded that this ad policy be adopted. Motion approved.

By-Law Committee: John Weiler reported that he has worked on by-law revisions for the past several years but that no formal committee has ever been appointed. Since there have been no Board Meeting minutes published since 1988, the revisions recommended by the Board 2 years ago have never been published or subsequently voted on by the membership. The same applies to the recommended changes voted on in 1987 in Phoenix. After a lengthy discussion, the following Bylaw revisions are recommended:

1. Present Membership Secretary office should be split into 2 positions: the Recording Secretary will be an elective office; the Membership Secretary will be appointed as a Committee Chairman. Since Section minutes were last published in 1987 and Board Meeting min-

utes were last published in 1988, it is recommended that minutes of both meetings be published annually in the Fall Recorder. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to provide these to the editor on time.

[NOTE: the elected office of Secretary and the appointed Membership Committee Chairman have always been separate positions. A review of the past dozen *Reblooming Iris Recorder* mastheads and the Reblooming Iris Society By-laws bears this out. Perhaps the confusion over this point arose since the RIS Secretary has inherited the Membership job, by default, for considerable time. *Secretary pro tempore.*]

2. Term of office of elected officers will be increased from 2 years to 3 years and phased in to allow President and Secretary to be elected one year and the VP and Treasurer elected the next. This eliminates the clean sweep wherein all 4 officers are elected at once. The President can serve two 2 year terms; the other 3 officers can serve indefinitely or until they are replaced. Present bylaws state that officers will be elected annually for a term of 1 year; elected officials will serve no more than 3 consecutive years. Weiler commented that, although the bylaws did not reflect the change, RIS has already implemented this procedure following member approval during the Section meeting in Phoenix in 1987.
3. The Publicity Director will be removed from elective status and will be appointed to serve a 4 year term or until replaced. The office was vacated by the death of Monty Byers in December 1991. Duties of the Publicity Chairman should include, among other things, a yearly report in the Recorder, pertinent photographs, articles, advertisements and Fall show reports.

Weiler recommended that the bylaws in general need refining as there are presently no clear guidelines in many instances. He also reminded the group that results of the study defining AIS vs Section status may necessitate further bylaw changes. Sara Marley (VA) volunteered to chair the Bylaw Revision Committee and John Weiler (CA)

volunteered to help her. Brookins reminded them that any recommended revisions must be published in the Spring *RIR* prior to being voted on at the annual section meeting. It is hoped that this can be accomplished in Dallas in 1993.

Nominating Committee: Chairman John Weiler reported difficulty in contacting the other members of the committee—Retiring Director Lottie Ogles and Member-at-large Garland Bare. Consequently the committee has been unable to obtain candidates for the offices of Vice-President and Southern Director. Incumbent Treasurer Evelyn Hayes agreed to serve again. Therefore there will be no elections at the general meeting in 1992 and a full slate of 4 officers and 2 directors will be up for election in 1993. Weiler recommended that the entire nominating committee be appointed early enough to allow members to meet during National. The bylaws state that the slate of officers must be printed in the Fall *Recorder*. This also gives the committee additional time to complete the slate (if needed) and publish the slate again in the Spring *Recorder*. It was also recommended that specific duties and responsibilities (job descriptions) for the officers and directors be worked out and published. **Suggested by-law revision:** Names of Nominating Committee members will be published in the Fall *Recorder*; Slate of officers will be published in the Spring *Recorder*. This will necessitate publishing of the *Recorder* prior to the annual section meeting during national convention.

President: Brookins reported that J. Weiler had signed up 40 new members since January. There have been 3000+ responses to the article in *Southern Living*; a second published article did not list RIS dues, causing much expenditure of time and postage to answer inquiries.

Jim Foreman, publisher of the *Medianite*, advised the group of the need for a protective disclaimer to be used when quoting letters and other material received by editors. This will be put in future *Recorders* and will cover contributors, editor, and publisher.

Membership: Charlie Brown reported that he has had continuing problems with the computer program which handles membership records. He and Brookins will meet

during convention to work this out. a membership count and labels will be sent the editor as soon as possible. He also reported \$1800 in the Membership Holding Account and \$300-\$400 yet to be entered. The misgivings of the Treasurer regarding several different RIS accounts were discussed. It was decided that all accounts will be consolidated under one IRS number and will be handled by the RIS Treasurer. Warren Wiekhorst reminded the Board of the need for the non-profit status to be valid in California which is the state of residence of the Treasurer. This will be investigated.

New Business:

- I. Midwestern Director Garland Bare, whose local society put on a Rebloom-ing Iris Show in 1991 and plans another in 1992, has requested financial help from RIS to assist in the staging of these shows. RIS policy forbids this. Brookins moved that the RIS not approve financial support for any society sponsoring a Rebloom-ing Show. Lowe seconded; Motion carried.
- II. Slide Chairman Diana Nicholls asked that the rental fee for RIS slides show be raised from \$5 to \$7.50 to compensate for rising postal costs. Brown moved approval, Weiler seconded; motion carried. Diana also requested advance of \$100 for expenses involved in duplicating slides. Discussion followed:
 1. 60-100 slides makes a good RE program
 2. Updating the collection with new Rebloom-ing TBs and medians, and symposium winners should be done annually
 3. The slide collection should be duplicated as a safety measureLowe moved that RIS authorize duplication of entire slide set. Brown seconded; motion approved. Weiler moved that \$100 be sent chairman Nicholls for expenses. Lowe seconded; motion carried.
- III. Mike Lowe announced that he would be stepping down as editor in 1993 and that the Spring '93 *Recorder* would be his last issue. He recommended that the new editor be in place by Convention 1993 (Dallas) so that the turnover

can be accomplished at the Board Meeting.

IV. Weiler announced that Rialto Gardens will provide rhizomes for a local Society Sale in California. This society will split the profits 50-50 with RIS.

V. Lowe announced receipt of several requests for sources for large numbers of rhizomes of reblooming irises. Presently commercial quantities are not available to nurseries and landscapers. Discussion followed. This is a continuing problem for which there is no solution at the present time. An update on the Byers garden revealed that a couple has bought out the entire garden. It may be somewhat of a salvage operation as records are sketchy. There is much RE potential among seedlings which will probably be distributed around the country. A catalog will be issued in 1993.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM. ☺

Anne S. Lowe
Anne Lowe

Secretary Pro tem

FYI In *Pacific Horticulture*, Spring '93 on page 29 is an article by Brent C. Dickerson; 'New Garden, Old Roses.'

Highlighting the article is a color illustration, courtesy of the University of California Library, from *Journal des Roses*, 1902, depicting the hybrid perpetual rose, 'Frau Karl Druschki.'

The chromolithograph caught my attention as directly under the flower, immediately after cultivar name, hybridizer and year of introduction, was the description, '(Remontant).' In my naiveté, I had assumed that 'rebloomer' and the slightly more elegant term, 'remontant' were of recent coinage.

A quick check in *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, Unabridged* gave the following entry:

Re-mon-tant (ri mon'tant), adj. 1. (of certain roses) blooming more than once in a season. —n. 2. a remontant rose. [1880-85; < French present participle of *remounter* to REMOUNT]

ASK THE EXPERTS

A means by which you can query the pros—find the answer to your iris problems—have a resident 'answer man' at your elbow.

Send questions to Editor, *Reblooming Iris Recorder*, 12219 Zilles Rd., Blackstone, VA 23824. If your question is not readily answered, it may run in the *Recorder* and have an answer provided in a later issue.

Q What is the value of alfalfa in raising irises? The only alfalfa I can locate is in feed stores and is 1/4 inch feed pellets. The feed store manager claims that many of his customers are rose enthusiasts and each has his/her own way of using pellets. Some, he claims, work pellets into the soil; others work them as a mulch; some do both. If this is horticulturally sound, what is the recommended quantity and means of application of these pellets? Is there a better source than the pellets? I have examined enough labels of various brands of pellets to realize that they vary in content, and that some contain sodium chloride in unspecified amounts. Would this be harmful to introduce into the soil?

This perhaps will give your experts a chance to help us all out. If alfalfa is half as good as some claims I have heard, it must be great.

R.C. Richards, La Mesa, CA

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The Reblooming Iris Symposium

That was then... what now?

Dick Gibson, CA

The Reblooming Iris Symposium first appeared in the No. 15, February, 1969 *The Reblooming Iris Reporter* published by Edwin Rundlett of Staten Island, New York. Edwin included in his *Reporter* the "Rebloomer Consumer Report," a listing of all the varieties reported to him as reblooming. He listed them alphabetically in twelve climate categories, the first report January, 1963.

This was not a true symposium as he did not also list the varieties by ranking within the group. This could be easily done by the subscriber (we paid Edwin \$1.50 per year for two issues, Spring and Fall) if he cared to. Some years the number of pages exceeded 80. The "Consumer Reports" were published annually through 1971, replaced in the 1972 Symposium with the "Report of Rebloom" which has been continued intermittently to this date. The 1968, 1969 and the 1970 Reblooming Iris Symposiums were published in the *Reporter*, the 1971 in the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*. Edwin asked that we not continue with the name *Reporter*.

The Reblooming Iris Symposium serves the members by ranking the varieties and offering a guide in choosing varieties to purchase. Reporting by climate categories is especially important to determine varieties that will rebloom in your particular climate. This should eliminate the complaint that "I bought a rebloomer but it has never rebloomed for me." There are many varieties that will rebloom in warmer climates that have little or no chance of reblooming in colder climates.

During its 23 years, the format has changed many times. Edwin's *Reporter* broke it down into twelve climates. All since have been three, four or six—much more manageable. You never have the same number of freeze-free days each year but you can place your garden in one of the climates that generally applies. You can get rebloom from all varieties in climates colder than yours, and rebloom from some warmer climate varieties during unusually warm years.

If the Symposium is limited to only those who grow the variety, there will be fewer ballots submitted but those will report the actual number of varieties that rebloomed in that climate. This eliminates many members as they have seen the rebloom but cannot vote.

If every member may submit a ballot there can be distortion of both rebloom ability and flower quality. An example; If during a Fall Regional meeting an inferior variety is blooming, it can be reported by many, placing it much higher on the list for that year than it should be. The number of varieties to be rated has ranged from seven to over two hundred. During several years, each month of bloom for each variety was reported.

Rhizomes sent from California to colder climates may bloom the Fall following Summer planting. Don't count on it being a rebloomer in your climate—that stalk was born in California. All future stalks from that rhizome will be born in your climate and your climate may say NO. **Feed Back** was bred in Stockton, California, but has proved a rebloomer in all climates. As borne out by the 10 year listing on page 22, those varieties introduced during the nearby years are of superior quality or they would not have been introduced. You do not know whether or not they will remain a favorite, However, **Pink Attraction** was ranked 22nd the year following introduction and 14th in 1990. If you have seen it you will probably agree that it will not "fall on its face," but that is "not written in stone." If you are not able to view a variety before purchase, such action on the Symposium is a good indicator. **Breakers** and **Champagne Elegance** had similar rankings. (See the ten year rankings, page 22)

Some varieties have been favorites for 15 years or more. Their prices are within all budgets and you will have a variety that is well respected by many members. Those introduced four or five years ago are also reasonably priced. **Harvest of Memories** is an example of a variety that becomes rated higher year after year and is a good choice. The first six on the list are perennial favorites, and an obvious choice for purchase. If too many members follow this line of thought the growers will probably run out of

stock. But there are other equally satisfying varieties that you can choose from the report.

Not a part of the Symposium, of course, are the new introductions. It happens every year and some of them will be tomorrow's top favorites. Others will "wither on the vine" and end up much lower on the annual listing. If you purchase these, you will win some and lose some, but you got there first. This can get a little rough on the pocket-book, but you may see something that you

'must have.' Splurge just this once, what the heck.

The first Reblooming Iris Symposium was published in the February, 1969 issue of *The Reblooming Iris Reporter* for the year 1968. The members were to submit their favorite seven tall bearded varieties in order of preference. First place was awarded seven points, declining to one for last place. There were twenty-two varieties listed. Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg conceived and compiled the first three Symposiums. ↓

Partial Results—First Annual Reblooming Symposium 1968 Bloom Year

Ranking	Iris	Hybridizer & Yr	Total # of votes	Points for under 200 days	Points for 200–300 days	Points for over 300 days	Total votes
1	Cayenne Capers	Jim Gibson '59	29	12	67	72	151
2	Fall Primrose	G. Percy Brown '56	21	81	30	4	115
3	Blue Surprise	Lloyd Austin '57	18	21	55	26	102
4	Sky Queen	Frances Craig '62	15	36	18	28	82

[Ed. The text in this article flows normally from left column to right column until a Symposium box is reached. When the article reaches a symposium, text jumps to the top of the adjacent column and resumes normal flow under the inserted symposium. Complicated? Yes, unfortunately—this is a complex article. Stick with it—it can be figured out.

I have taken the liberty of recreating the first few entries of each symposium used as an illustration. The Xeroxes available to me were of uneven quality and re-typesetting each symposium afforded the best illustration of 'what was' without having the distracting element of varying levels of quality and format.]

The 1969 Symposium ranked the first 26 varieties. Each variety was listed showing the freeze-free days of that ballot and the

points awarded. Fifty ballots were submitted, fewer than in 1968. ↓

Iris/ Partial Results—2nd Annual Reblooming Symposium 1969 Bloom Year

Rank	Hybridizer & Yr	Growing Season Length/ points																				Total Score
1	Cayenne Capers (J. Gibson '59)	165	180	195	200	205	210	220	225	225	240	240	249	300	340	343	344	350	360	365	365	112
2	Fall Primrose (G.P. Brown '56)	120	135	153	179	180	184	197	200	207	220	240	355									67
3	Sky Queen (Frances Craig '62)	181	200	205	210	214	220	240	249	249	343	344										57
		7	7	6	1	7	7	1	6	4	7	4										

The 1970 Symposium used six categories, listing the points submitted by each

ballot. 38 ballots were cast, 28 voted for the full seven favorites. ↓

THE REBLOOMING IRIS SYMPOSIUM 1970 Bloom Year

Total Points	Iris, Hybridizer, Year	Length Of Growing Season (days)					
		under 150	150–180	181–210	211–250	251–300	over 300
64	Fall Primrose G.P. Brown '56	5, 7	6, 7, 7, 5	3, 5, 5, 6	7		
46	Cayenne Capers J. Gibson '59				5, 2, 7	2, 4, 5	7, 5, 3, 6
33	Lovely Again R. G. Smith '66	7	6, 6, 2		6	5, 1	

Richard Gibson directed and compiled the 1971 through 1975 Symposiums. Previous Symposiums concerned only tall bearded varieties. The Median Iris Symposium was inaugurated and continues to this day. Climate categories were reduced to four. Two of the symposiums during this period are shown. Forty-three ballots were submit-

ted in 1971, approximately 20% of the membership. "1" equals 7 points, "7" equals 1 point. Note how the Symposium indicates clearly the climates in which each variety will or will not rebloom. ~ Only thirty-nine ballots submitted in 1972. The first Report of Rebloom was presented. ↓

For the Year 1972											
TALL BEARDED VARIETY			SYMPOSIUM				REPORT OF REBLOOM				
	Points	Votes	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	
EMMA LOUISA	53	8	20	14	14	5		4			
FALL PRIMROSE	40	8	34	6			5	2			
BESS BERGIN	24	4	7	13	4			1	1		
CAYENNE CAPERS	18	4	5	4	9			3	1		
A=180-189 days			B=190-229 days			C=230-269 days			D=270 days & over		

There were just short of 50 ballots in the year of 1973.

Only 34 voted a full ballot, most from the colder climates. There was no Report of Rebloom.

The reporting of the Symposium was

considerably different in 1975. In part 'B' (not illustrated) 54 varieties were shown alphabetically listing the Symposium and the Report of Rebloom results. 34 varieties were listed by rank showing only Position and Points. ↓

Position			SYMPOSIUM REBLOOMING TALL BEARDED IRIS	Points	
'75	'74	'73	VARIETY	'75	'74
1	2	1	EMMA LOUISA '68	64	86
2	14	36	SUMMER SUNSHINE '72	60	26
3	1	5	GOLDEN ENCORE '73	51	90
4	6	4	FALL PRIMROSE '53	43	43
Part 'B' of the '75 symposium detailed bloom as follows: Spring only; Fall only; Rebloom; No bloom; Not sure and Just planted. There was insufficient room to illustrate here.					

The next three Symposiums were conceived by Dr. Norman Noe and Richard Gibson. The tall bearded were compiled by Dr. Noe, the medians by Gibson. For the 1976 Symposium the 1975 Fall Recorder included printed ballots for the Tall bearded and for the median varieties. Members were also advised to include a separate sheet for varieties that were not listed. One report was used only in 1976. The bloom was reported in six categories and published by climate only and only for the varieties on the printed ballot. The second report also used the printed ballot to report the overall points alphabetically, also showing overall points by climate and the Report of Rebloom by climate. This was the only time the Report of Rebloom has shown rebloom and total grown. The third report was a listing by rank and by climate, each variety rated for performance (rebloom) and quality (flower,

stalk, etc.). The overall points were used in the ranking. . . ☺

[Part 1 of 2 parts. This article is extremely complex and provides more information than can be easily assimilated in one sitting. Watch for the next installment!]

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Reflections

Lloyd Zurbrigg, NC

The spring season of 1992 in Durham, NC, had a warm spell in February and early March followed by ten nights of freezing—just when the calendar assured that it was springtime. Indeed, this seems to be a common pattern for many gardens in Region 4 the past few years.

This freezing did little damage to most of the iris garden, except for the very early dwarfs already in bloom. Within a few days, however, damage to foliage was evident in those varieties of tall bearded originating in the warm parts of California, and in seedlings of my own having a generous inheritance from such varieties. The tall bearded irises became tetraploid owing to the introduction of *I. mesopotamica*. This gave an immediate increase in size of blossom, beauty of form, and, at the same time, a decrease of adaptability to the perennial border. *I. mesopotamica* is almost a desert plant, going dormant in the hot, dry summers of Iraq and Iran, and growing lushly in the mild, moister winters.

This is an old, old story. My love of the iris goes back to the 1940s and it was already evident then that many of the introductions of that era were unsuited to the demands of the Ontario, Canada climate.

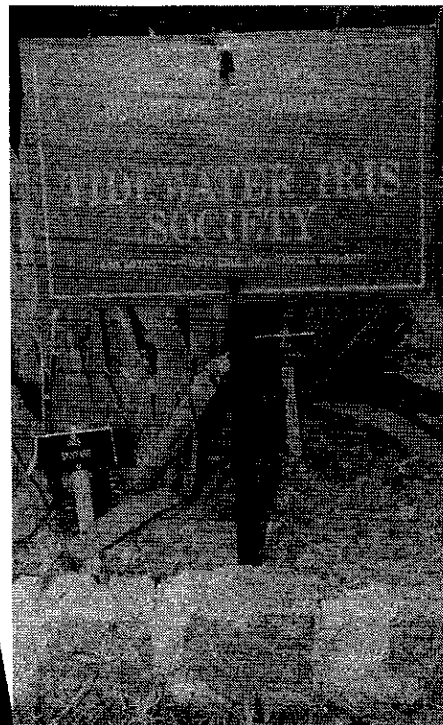
Purissima, a white derived from *I. mesopotamica*, could not be grown by even the most ardent irisarian, and its offspring, **Snow Flurry**, was 'touchy' in most gardens in spite of the inheritance of its pollen parent, **Thais**, an indestructible iris if there ever was one. There the worry was the severity of the Canadian winter. Here, in Durham, the challenge is rather the hot-wet conditions that occur in late spring and summer. Both are demands that are lethal to *I. mesopotamica* and to its descendants carrying too much of its genetic inheritance.

I could wish that more of our iris varieties had papery spathes. This would prevent pockets of water and dew forming at each branching. These heat up to 95° F. on hot days, leading to rot in too many varieties. I could also wish that the variety would leave a hard, almost woody stump when a stalk is cut instead of rotting—often letting the rot proceed into the rhizome. Most of all, I crave better, wirier root systems more able to han-

dle competition from shrubs and other perennials.

One pleasant result of the ten nights of freezing was that there was not a single iris borer to be found, though there were almost none last year either. Following that cold spell, the spring proceeded in a most applaudable fashion and a good spring season was enjoyed, with the bonus of an excellent lot of repeat bloom right after the main tall bearded season. ☺

DAVID SPENCER



The sign above tells the story. TIS maintains a JI Display bed (not shown) and a mixed bearded border seen below to the far right, at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Norfolk Virginia. Recently a 'Rebloomers Only' bed bordering both sides of the entrance has been planted. ☺



Gorer on Irises

Clarence Mahan, VA



An interesting addition to iris literature which seems to have escaped notice in iris circles is Richard Gorer's *The Development of Garden Flowers* (Eyre and Spottiswoode Ltd, 1970). This book is much sought after by horticultural book collectors and not easily obtained. An entire chapter is devoted to the development of irises. Among the numerous illustrations are iris plates. Two of these, *Iris pallida* and *iris variegata*, are from Curtis's *Botanical Magazine*. The third is *Iris trojana* from the *Genus Iris* by W. R. Dykes. A special appendix entitled "Note on Remontant Irises" is provided after the bibliography.

Gore's chapter on irises unfortunately contains quite a few errors both of fact and omission. In some instances it is easy to locate the source for an error because the error is in secondary sources which Gorer used. In other instances Gorer seems to have devised some totally new errors. A listing of all these 'problems' would be a bit boring for most readers, and I will not undertake it. But to do justice to one of the most important in the development of modern irises I will point out some errors relative to M. de Bure.

Gorer states "As far as is known the selection of hybrid *Iris* seedlings was started about 1800 by a German, E. von Berg of Neuenkirchen and a Frenchman, de Bure of Paris....on the other hand de Bure was a commercial grower and distributed the plants. The most famous, a flower with a pale ground stippled over with a darker colour of the type now known as 'plicata', he named after himself 'buriensis'. It was distributed about 1822."

De Bure, who was called by his contemporaries the "father of modern iris culture," was not a commercial grower. He was referred to as an "amateur" in contemporary literature. There is no evidence de Bure named **Buriensis** after himself. In the only article de Bure is known to have written on irises, in 1837, he referred to the iris known as 'buriensis' as "l'Iris de Bure, issu de l'Iris plicata." Someone else incorrectly Latinized

this into "Buriensis." (The name "buriensis" indicates the iris is from the area of Bure rather than that it is named in honor of a man named de Bure). "Buriensis" was listed as one of the irises being grown by M. Lémon circa 1840 in articles appearing in the *Revue Horticole* and "*Annales de Flore et de Pomone*."

There is no evidence, other than Ernest Krelage's speculation ('on peut en conclure') in 1921, that **Buriensis** was obtained as early as 1822...but it most certainly was not "distributed" at that early date. If anyone can locate a clone of **Buriensis** today, it will be a most significant contribution to iris preservation.

The most interesting aspect of Gorer's book to most reblooming iris fans will be his appendix: "Note on Remontant Irises." This is one of the very few horticultural books which has recognized the development of reblooming irises. This is what Gorer has to say:

In comparatively recent years there has been a new race bred of bearded irises, which are classed as remontant. These bloom at the normal time and have a second blooming in the autumn. This remontancy seems to depend to a considerable degree upon climate. Some cvs [cultivars] will rebloom in California, which are single flowering further north and Australian growers report reblooming in a wide variety of cvs, which have not been reported as reblooming elsewhere.

However, the phenomenon is not entirely climatic and remontancy has been reported in a number of species. It may be a coincidence, but they are chiefly dwarf species with 48 chromosomes: I. aphylla, subbiflora, and balkana. I. aphylla has been used quite extensively in breeding, but the other two species rather sparingly. A leading breeder of this race, Mr Edwin Rundlett, tells me that most of the remontant cvs in north-west U.S.A. seem to show traces of variegata and pallida.

This remontancy is genetic and is transferred to second and later generations. Our leading breeder, Mr Maurice Peach, has been successful using American cvs and a remontant strain of I. aphylla. Mr Rundlett points out that remontancy often occurs when sterile offsprings are produced from crossing 48

chromosome Tall Bearded Irises with the 40 chromosome *I. chamaeiris* and suggests that the energy that would be employed in producing seeds is transferred into producing a second crop of sterile hybrids, it will not explain it in fertile plants. In any case such sterile irises as 'germanica' and 'albicans' show no tendency to remontancy.

A possible explanation is that remontancy is due to a recessive gene, which emerges more frequently in some species than in others. If this is bred into a T.B.[sic] it will be inhibited, but if two T.B.s with a remontant species in their ancestry are crossed, some of the offspring will show this feature, and, if these are crossed, this remontancy will be perpetuated. This explanation, which, so far as I know is my own, sounds a little too glib to be true, but it does seem plausible. The effect of climate on remontancy is understandable, as many T.B.s will not flower at all in wet climates and it seems clear that a certain amount of summer heat is necessary to initiate flower production. One would expect more remontancy in districts where a hot summer followed by a wet autumn can be relied upon. In Britain many of the Oncobreds are unsatisfactory in their flower production, which in central and southern U.S.A. they are spectacular.

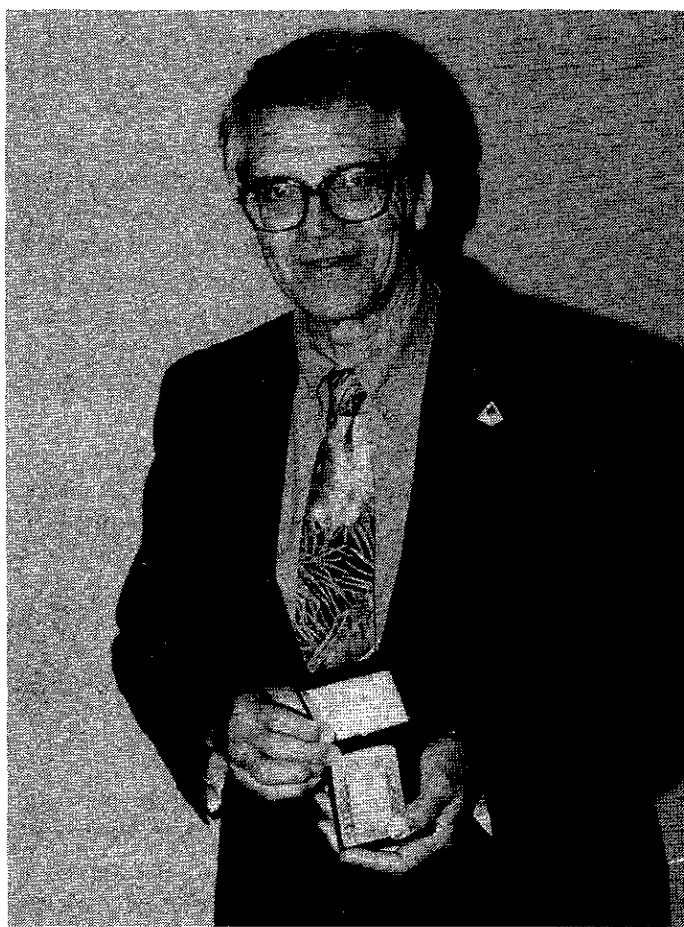
As a garden plant the remontant bearded iris seems to be one of the most hopeful developments of modern times. It is true that at the moment the colours of the remontants are less satisfactory than those of the single blooming cvs, but it is presumably only a matter of time before the disadvantage is overcome.

When I discovered Gorer's recognition of reblooming iris developments, I was so pleased and grateful that my tendencies to critique the substance of what he had to say were suppressed...but only briefly. American irisarians will have to smile at an Englishman's idea that oncobreds are spectacular in most parts of "central and southern U.S.A."

The thesis that heterosis (hybrid vigor) is the primary cause of iris remontancy still seems to me more satisfactory than Mr. Gorer's speculations. (See "The Origins of Remontancy" in *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*, Fall, 1989, and in *AIS Bulletin* 277.) Dr D.C. Nearpass's hybridization work bringing

I. aphylla into miniature tall bearded irises adds support in favor of heterosis being the cause. Working with once-blooming parents, a number of remontant clones have resulted from the Nearpass crosses.

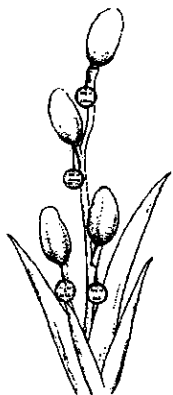
The Development of Garden Flowers is an informative and entertaining book, notwithstanding my criticisms. Its primary fault is reliance on secondary sources, and in a number of instances—not just in the case of irises, perpetuating errors. But much can be forgiven when an author is wise enough to be in the vanguard in promoting reblooming irises in 1970. ☺



SPRING '92 NATIONAL CONVENTION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Lloyd Zurbrigg displays the AIS Hybridizers's Medal which was presented to him in Atlanta for his outstanding achievements in iris development.

This presentation is of special significance as the only previous award made to a hybridizer specializing in rebloomers was given twenty years ago; Dr. G. Percy Brown was the recipient in 1971. ☺



Seedling Reports

Dudley Carson, Willamina, OR

Basically, this is a seedling report. I can hear the groans of those who are not into doing hybridizing—to you I offer my apologies.

To those who are busy with their hybridizing programs, I think this may be a little more interesting. I know that I am always interested in reading what others are doing, in what is showing promise in their seedling plots, and of the possibilities of future registrations and introductions. I promise that I will try to avoid long genealogical backgrounds into the third and fourth generations, although some of the first generations may be of interest. Anyone interested in genealogy may go on and follow the lines back as far as they wish.

To those of you who are doing the groaning, take heart and please bear with those of us who are giving seedling reports. Herein may lie the future—what might be called “Sneak Previews” of things to come that may well be blooming in your own gardens in the future.

I have been hybridizing since 1964 when I made my first crosses with Mary Randall X Patience, and some reblooming things of G. Percy Brown crossed with **April Showers** and **Broadway Star**. Of course, they were all dogs and were destroyed eventually, but the excitement of discovering what could be created by the simple process of crossing one iris with another has grown increasingly more intense with each passing year. I'm hooked—and I'm glad of it!

The years following that start have been filled with many mistakes. Only a few of the plants have been saved; a few have been used over and over. Each year the results have been improvements over past attempts, and finally, I am getting some rather good looking children blooming in my seedling plots. I'm glad other hybridizers have had better luck in

achieving recognition with their seedling crops.

The bloom seasons of 1992 produced a number of flowers that I want to report on. The spring season produced three that stick in my mind as being the best of the crop. Since I cannot decide which I like best, I'll take them from my records in the order of their appearance.

A lovely cool white, loaded with ruffles and elegant of form with slightly bluer beards came from the series 89-38-T which is Brother Carl X Seawolf. I failed to measure the height on this one.

From the series 89-57-T (Crinoline x Emma Louisa) X Mulled Wine came two blooms, only one of which was outstanding. It is a nice tall iris done up in blends of wine, violet and brown. It is nicely ruffled. Its picture is on the cover of this issue of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*. Unfortunately it produced no pollen last spring so I made no crosses with it.

The series 89-35-T produced a number of similarly colored seedlings but only one of them was supreme in its qualities. This cross was Bengal Tiger X Sdlg CC-58-85, which was a sibling to Fabri-Kate X Cayenne Capers. In appearance it is like **Fanfaron** and **Dazzling Gold** but as it grew last year, it was too short for a TB. However, as most of the things grew short last spring, I am hoping that this one will grow up next season. It had pollen which was used on several things, getting multiple pods on each cross.

The following seedlings produced maiden bloomstalks at the time of year that will, I hope, be their future rebloom season:

89-33-T was a cross of two siblings out of Red Revival X Caramba which produced several rather nice bitone and bicolor plicatas.

89-22-T, one of the above cross siblings X Burgundy Brown gave several stalks similar to the above cross but slightly better in quality. These two crosses will be watched for another year to see which, if any, will be worth keeping or using.

89-4-T, Queen Dorothy X Earl of Essex, gave one clump, among several others, that in its maiden bloom produced four bloomstalks. Not surprisingly, this one was a violet on white plicata. If it continues to produce rebloom at this rate, it will be worth keeping, using and possibly introducing.

Last fall, maiden bloomstalks showed up on

90-46-T, Mabel Andrews X Vanity—obviously a pink one—that I liked and will keep an eye on.

90-28-T, Latest Style X Glacier King, gave two stalks with good branching in near amoenae and blue-violet bitone. I had rather good luck earlier in getting this cross to develop some nice seedlings, a couple of which rebloomed, but all were lost in moving them.

90-8-T, Baroque Prelude X Johnny G, produced one of the very nicest pale yellow bitones I've seen in a long time.

90-1-BB, Marmalade Skies X (Red Revival x Caramba)—this RR X C sdlg was one of the brightest golden yellows with just a few plic markings at the haft. This cross produced seven plants that sent up stalks; only three made it to bloom stage. These three were similar in coloring—bright gold and orange bitones. All were short enough to be SDBs but the flowers were too large for that classification. Again I am hoping these will grow up next year.

The medians gave me the most excitement last fall. I am briefly digressing from my seedling report to tell about the named cultivars that rebloomed—several for the first time. I have had eight of Weiler's triple bloomers for a number of years, but only two of them had managed to rebloom. These two, **Third Charm** and **Willow Mist**, came through again with flying colors. I didn't record how long they bloomed but they seemed to keep on at great length. **Blitz**, **Plum Wine**, **Quietly**, **Khaki Print**, **Sun Strip** and **Thrice Blessed** also made a good showing. Larger clumps of **Plum Wine**, **Third Charm** and **Thrice Blessed** gave especially large amounts of rebloom.

In addition to the Weiler irises, the following rebloomed notably: Earl Hall's **Jewel Baby** actually gave me a triple blooming extravaganza; it had previously given early spring bloom with more at TB time. Terry Aitken's **Grapelet** sent up several stalks—it is a little darling. **Marita** (Zurbrigg) gave a number of reblooming stalks but only a few of them made it to bloom stage, as it is a late fall rebloomer. I know that **Baby Blessed** (Zurbrigg) is one of the best rebloomers for many of you across the nation, but for me it is rather skimpy in the amount of rebloom it is willing to produce. However, it nearly always gives a few stalks. This does not in any way diminish its importance as a parent; it has produced legions of offspring for different hybridizers.

Now back to the seedling report. I, too, have been using **Baby Blessed** as a parent. Judging from a quick glance at my crosses, it appears that I've always used it as a pollen parent. I'll try it as a pod parent this spring. The following crosses and results are noted:

97-3-D, **Thrice Blessed** X **Baby Blessed**—last spring there were three from this cross (I think) that gave their maiden bloom. There are eight seedlings total from this cross. The three that bloomed last spring also bloomed again in late October, and all but one of the remaining ones gave their maiden bloom about the same time. All were yellow, of course, and they varied in height from MDB to the upper limit of SDB. Several had strange but interesting light gray beards. I think they will be able to produce blue bearded offspring if properly used. The fall bloom on most of them was abundant. I'm really excited about these!

90-9-IB, **Glacier King** X **Baby Blessed**, produced three stalks on three different plants. All were yellow and all were within the IB limits. I can't remember the quality of the blossoms so will watch them at least one more time.

90-1-IB, **Lazy Lady** X **Baby Blessed**—an explanation of **Lazy Lady** is in order here. Years back when I was using the G. Percy Brown rebloomers in my crosses, I crossed **Gypsy Lullaby** with **Fall Primrose**. I don't remember which was pod or pollen parent. Only one of that cross was kept—**Lazy Lady**. It is a violet-blue bitone that has been a faithful rebloomer. The flowers open nicely, but after a day they fall apart, hence the name. However, because it reblooms so well I have continued to use it in both my TB and IB crosses. The few of the above cross that bloomed last fall were blues and violets, and I'll keep them a bit longer to assess their worth.

That takes care of the **Baby Blessed** offspring. I'll be sure to use this iris more heavily in a few months—the quality of her offspring makes it imperative.

There were two more crosses that produced one bloomstalk each. 86-4-D, **Banbury Ruffles** X **Third Charm**, a nicer formed thing than its pollen parent; and 89-21-D, **Regardless** X **Cherry Garden**. This one was more characteristic of its pollen parent than its pod one.

More explanation: **Regardless** is an un-introduced seedling that appeared next to **Regards** 8-9 years ago. It resembled **Regards** in

most respects except it was too tall and the beard was yellow; it also bloomed later at IB time. I have kept **Regardless** all these years as I like it very much. It has always bloomed only in spring and its stalks have been at the upper limit for SDB. However, last fall, both clumps that I have began putting up stalks and they grew twenty or more inches tall. For a while, I thought I had mis-labeled it and it was **Ebony Embers** which usually throws up several fall stalks. As it opened, it proved to be a grown up version of **Regardless** and it sent up four stalks per clump. Talk about excitement; I couldn't believe my eyes! Here was a gorgeous IB done up in red-violet bitone colors, the falls being of the very deepest hue with velvety texture. Wow! I'm going to give it preferential treatment from here on out and hope it will prove to be a reliable rebloomer. If it does, I will register and introduce it—it's too good to keep for myself.



Libby Cross, Covington, VA

Bloom stalks started on my seedling 90-A-2, but the frost got it. I even potted the seedling in hopes it would go on and bloom but it was no use. Anyway, I'm happy it even tried to rebloom. A cross of **Immortality** X unknown large white early bloomer, it looked very promising this spring.



Lloyd Zurbrigg, Durham, NC

There was but sparse bloom on new seedlings in both the spring and fall seasons of 1992. The outstanding crosses all involved **Northward Ho** and one or another of the siblings to **Renown**. Five stalks on one of these crosses appeared in early November. In the spring there was an odd amoena whose speckled falls resembled a bird's egg. In the fall, two stood out. The first was a conventional violet on white plicata, but with early September bloom and great charm. The other is a light rosy-purple with huge white zonals, obviously a grandchild of **Suky** in both pattern and quality. There was nothing in the Space-Age lines this fall, and only one blue-bearded white. The latter was charming enough, but the beard had poor color saturation.

In the June period of repeat bloom, a light blue of great purity of color and tailored form, KK 124, #2, gave a splendid performance, but it did not come again this fall. This one is doubly out of **Sapphire Hills**, hence its excel-

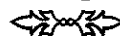
lent blue coloration. **Mesmerizer** is repeating. The stalk is not high quality and I almost wish it had not because I am left with only one fan! However, it is very interesting to know that it can rebloom and it adds value to my crosses with **Renown** (3 pods).

Following the Region 4 Fall Meeting and Show the first weekend in October, I drove to West Friendship, Maryland to visit the garden of Joan and Ken Roberts. There was a big white with yellow hafts in full bloom, that was from a cross **Immortality** X **Coral Chalice**! A sibling was about to bloom. One of my own seedlings, HH 22-1-1, in five little clumps, sported five stalks almost ready to open.



H22-1-1 — JOAN'S PLEASURE, 1993

This had never rebloomed for me so I was very surprised and greatly pleased. It is from **Soap Opera** X **Summer Olympics**. It is now registered as **Joan's Pleasure**. I yearn to visit this lovely garden next spring.



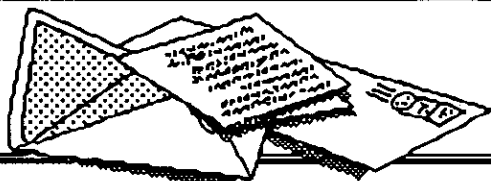
Betty Wilkerson, Alvaton, KY

This has been a great year for me in the seedling patch. Summer and fall have produced many pleasant surprises. I just finished planting my G Series (1992) seed. I made more crosses and got fewer takes but what I have has such great potential.



Walter Smith, Williamsburg, VA

This year we had the latest (calendar-wise) bud we have ever had. The plant is one of Louise's unnamed seedlings and is obviously a rebloomer. A picture was taken January 6, and it appears that there is a possible bloom here unless we have a freeze soon. Probably too much to hope for but interesting! ☺



Cards and Letters

I am enclosing my annual reblooming iris report in case there is anything in it you would like to use. [Ed. featured in Spring '92 RIR] It is my way of saying "thank you"... for an always fascinating publication. Once I receive my copy, I hardly put it down until it has been consumed from cover to cover—which usually takes several readings.

I do, however want to disagree with you on your proposal that someone plant a reblooming iris garden that would be the rival of a spring garden for quantity of bloom. I believe this could be done in a warm winter climate just by selecting those varieties which bloom heavily in the autumn and planting them close together. Please see my comments regarding bloom every day of the year in my rebloom report. Several varieties are heavy off-season bloomers for months on end, and a grouping of these would put on a fall show.

But why bother? I fail to see why the almost sickening mass of bloom which hits in the spring is a great value. It sometimes appears that a rainbow has been nuked. Frankly, this excessive display borders on the obscene! There is little time to appreciate the individual clone since every clone is screaming for attention. The off season bloom on the other hand usually does not suffer from this excessive competition for attention, and can be studied at leisure. On a busy schedule, with only so much time to devote to the garden each day, that is a big consideration.

Indeed, such activities as hybridizing can be carried on in more leisure in the off season, at least here in southern California. One cross can be contemplated, accomplished, and savored. I have set seed during every month of the year and it is a joy that is wonderful.

I can understand that you folks in the colder climates get hungry for spring and for bloom. Having lived in a colder climate, I

can really appreciate that ecstasy that accompanies the first bloom. Could it be that spring readily furnishes a feeding frenzy for that sort of hunger? Is quantity of bloom the only value? Is bigness really greatness?

Now that it is possible in virtually every climate in which irises will grow to spread that pleasure out over a much longer period of time than just a few weeks in the spring, why not enjoy the appearance of a few irises at a time, and not have to have spring flowing along for months in its heady excesses?

Anyway, I thought you might like an opposing opinion for the sake of balance. Keep up the excellent work.

R. C. Richards
Las Mesa California



June 22: To Louise Smith

...As I look at the future of irises over the next 50 years or so, I suspect the hybrid iris of 2042 will grow better than irises today, have been genetically engineered to include colors not available today, and will rebloom. Certainly, I feel that the most important Tall Bearded trend is rebloom and rebloomers will, sooner or later, replace the irises that only bloom once a year in the garden.

Bryce Williamson
PO Box 972
Campbell, CA 95009



October 4

...The November *Flower and Garden* magazine has an excellent article by Clarence Mahan on *Reblooming Irises*. The garden photograph was taken by WIS member Mike Lowe—a nice picture of a lovely garden. Our local display bed contains a number of the iris mentioned in the article.

Nelda Pressly
111 West Kingswood Dr.
Williamsburg, VA 23815



January 10, 1993

...Your timing is absolutely unbelievable! Yesterday we had the most snow in many years—9 to 12 inches here and more to the west of us—and what do I receive in the mail? The Spring 1992 Reblooming Iris Recorder! Of course I enjoyed it even if my brain had a little difficulty keeping the time straight. *The Symposium* is always of partic-

ular interest to me. My own records suffered a little last year due to other things happening, but once more I did have bloom late into October. I cut them and place them on our breakfast table for better viewing and it gets a little thick sometimes! ...Passed my 80th in August but plan to continue "Millie's Iris Garden" cuz I like my irises and the people who visit.

Millie Townsend
11806 East 39th St.
Independence, MO 64052



December 28

...The Greater Kansas City Iris Society had 18 hours of Judges Training this year, 13 of it in gardens. 54 attended the Rebloom-ing training/Tour!

Donna Aldridge
7503 West 54th Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66202



December 24

...a big surprise for us: **Bayberry Candle** will probably open Christmas Day—it is about 40° here at night and 78° during the day—all my fans are growing.

Joyce Ann Rader
1737 W. Holt Ave., Space 5
Pomona, CA 91768



April 23

...By the way, Jim Gibson came to the Region 14 meeting we hosted on April 11th. He was with Jack Durrance; looked real good, walking with a cane—it was nice to see him.

Evelyn Hayes
51 South Byron Ave.
Lemoore, CA 93245



January 12, 1993

I think you should set the record straight as to what actually caused the death of our dearly beloved Monty Byers, as well as Don Denny and David Sindt. During the Bush and Reagan years, we were taught to ignore the plague as though that would make it go away. Well, now that they have voted out hypocrisy, let's clear the air and try to deliver the truth. Our beloved Monty Byers died of complications from AIDS; pneumonia finally did him in after AIDS enabled his body to become so

weakened with the *Slim Disease* as the Africans call it. Don Denny, who also hybridized iris, and David Sindt both died of AIDS. Yes, now we can tell the truth.

Liberace was gay and died of AIDS. In fact, it is a scourge in the entertainment industry, the fashion industry, the music industry, and elsewhere gays shine, and is now increasing among black and Hispanic hets. It is seldom diagnosed amongst women until it is very advanced if it is noticed at all.

AIDS is an opportunistic disease that can take ten years to develop into full-blown proportions. It is quite a fantastic and amazing disease. We need not hide it and say someone died of pneumonia when it was actually AIDS. The iris world has lost three of its most promising hybridizers due to AIDS: Byers, Denny and Sindt. There may be other hybridizers or other irisarians who have died of AIDS who are not known to me. I decry our reticence to speak the truth and to mention the word AIDS.

I hope you will publish this letter verbatim. I sorely mourn the loss of Monty Byers who could have done so very much more to breed superior reblooming iris. I also mourn our loss of Don Denny and David Sindt. The world is a sadder place without them. This plague will not go away and there may never be a cure. It may be nature's way of solving the over-population problem in India, China, Indonesia, Japan and elsewhere where there are too many people per square mile. There are nearly six billion people in the world already and I recently read of our having over ten billion by the year 2050. Perhaps this plague will prevent the world population from reaching ten billion that quickly. The Black Plague reduced the world's population hundreds of years ago and smallpox was of epidemic proportions. Supposedly smallpox has been wiped out world wide; perhaps AIDS can also be wiped out. However, unlike smallpox, AIDS is known in five mutant forms already and has the capability of mutating further. These retroviruses are horrendous. We need to pour billions of dollars into research to defeat it before it annihilates the world. AIDS is most terrible in the heart of Africa where 50% of the carriers are women. Some 90% of persons with AIDS in Africa are black hets (heteros) and millions have the disease.

This month, my hospital has opened its first ward for AIDS patients. They should have done this 13 years ago, but better late

than never. Silence can kill; ignorance can kill. We have a lot of educating to do to inform people about how to avoid this plague.

I will miss Monty Byers and will miss the beautiful iris he might have hybridized.

Edward Murray, Ph.D.
PO Box 93215
Hollywood, CA 90093

[Ed. Some irisarians firmly believe that issues belong on TV, radio, newspapers and not in a publication where they feel every inch of space should be devoted to iris.

An AP wire news release from the World Health Organization caught my eye and I will take the liberty of quoting from it: "...WHO reported Thursday that the number of [AIDS] cases in the U.S. would rise to more than 500,000 by 1995 with 385,000 deaths."

AIDS is an issue for irisarians and will continue to be so until we find a cure.]



January 12, 1993.

I was happy to receive the Recorder. I en-

joy the articles so much. The article on voles really struck home. Mole tunnels have been a major problem for me for the last few years. And a number of valuable rhizomes have been eaten. I think that last spring I lost a lot of bloom because of damage to roots. It is pretty sickening to find that underneath your precious rhizomes is a big pocket of air! And it's even worse to see the leaves on the ground and the rhizome completely gone.



I have tried most of the methods you mentioned to try to get rid of them, all to no avail. I also planted marigolds because I read that they repel moles, but I couldn't see any results. This fall I ordered and planted some bulbs of the Fritillaria Imperialis, which the catalog claims will repel rodents. The bulbs have a skunk-like odor. Maybe they will work.

Julie Allen
Rt. 7, Box 537
Sparta, TN 38583

The table below summarizes the past ten years' worth of symposiums. Data for this was prepared and submitted by Dick Gibson of Sacramento, California. Not all iris from any one symposium appear here—only those that made a significant showing across a number of years are detailed. In the past decade, symposiums have not featured a 'past performance listing' and this hampers readers' evaluation of the 'comers and the sliders.' ©

Name, Hyb, Year	'91	'90	'89	'88	'87	'86	'85	'84	'83	'82
Immortality (Zurbrigg '82)	1	1	1	3	2	3	4	4	5	10
Corn Harvest (Wyatt '77)	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
Queen Dorothy (Hall '84)	3	5	3	5	4	4	7	22	-	-
Feedback (Hager '83)	4	3	6	4	6	34	22	35	-	-
Earl of Essex (Zurbrigg '80)	5	4	4	1	3	2	31	17	9	11
Harvest of Memories (Zurbrigg '85)	6	7	12	33	35	20	-	-	-	-
I Do (Zurbrigg '74)	7	6	5	6	11	15	-	14	3	7
Champagne Elegance (Niswonger '87)	8	23	17	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brother Carl (Zurbrigg '83)	9	9	24	10	24	21	-	26	16	-
Pink Attraction (Hall '88)	13	14	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jennifer Rebecca (Zurbrigg '83)	14	10	9	7	19	38	-	-	-	-
Golden Encore (Jones, F. '73)	15	13	6	14	7	10	7	1	2	8
Sugar Blues (Zurbrigg '85)	16	11	27	33	15	84	-	-	-	-
Victoria Falls (Schreiners '77)	16	14	19	20	28	35	-	21	98	26
Perfume Counter (Zurbrigg '72)	18	14	35	-	-	48	10	5	7	5
Autumn Bugler (Jones, F. '86)	20	20	21	29	17	24	-	-	-	-
English Cottage (Zurbrigg '76)	20	26	19	20	99	30	31	8	4	82
Witch of Endor (Miller '78)	26	14	27	29	68	35	-	82	-	-
Jean Guymer (Zurbrigg '77)	26	26	8	16	13	18	35	12	12	38
Eternal Bliss (Byers '88)	30	14	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Violet Classic (Zurbrigg '76)	30	20	72	33	29	38	-	65	-	19
Spirit of Memphis (Zurbrigg '77)	38	19	14	15	22	8	31	34	19	2
Grape Adventure (Jones, F. '86)	38	23	38	41	18	66	-	-	-	-

- The iris bed is 5 by 60 feet. WIS members contributed more than 40 different irises for this planting; three fourths are rebloomers; some are historic; others are seedlings from a local hybridizer and still others are recently introduced once-bloomers. During our September picnic, we combed the iris check lists to make sure that we had the correct information (introduction date, type, height, etc.) for each iris. We hope that we will have a good show of bloom for the Fall Regional which we are hosting here in Williamsburg in October 1993. Our members and the MGs have also contributed daylilies, liriope, mondo grass and other plants which will extend the blooming season in the bed and provide companions for the irises.

We tilled this in along with other soil amendments, and the irises together with their companion plants were set in place. Now we wait for spring.

- Thank you for the nine rebloomers you sent me a couple of years ago for Lincoln Park. In the fall of '90, the Chief Horticulturist of the park district died unexpectedly; the new administration viewed my work as an "improvement." The park district maintains the established beds (somewhat). However, local residents and visitors of the park love seeing something other than weeds and daisies. Some even recognize the plants as iris and they are delighted.

Jean Guymr (orange) and **Autumn Bugler** have rebloomed several times in the past two years. Last summer/fall [1991] there was some iris blooming all the time.

- ...I'm enclosing a show schedule. Hopefully we will have lots of horticulture and many arrangement entries. Sure hope we have some bloom but all the month of October the temperature has been 100° more or less. Thank goodness it got down to 90° today, but the iris don't think about blooming when it's this hot, although I do have several pretty stalks of **Harvest of Memories** on the table.

23

Anyway, all of us in this area live quite a distance from Tulare so there may be better iris weather in other members' gardens. I suppose your climate isn't too different from ours except that you probably get a lot more rain than we do. We've had none since July 1st but the cotton men are happy that almost all the crop is ginned and the raisin people didn't have to worry about getting their grapes dry. [*one man's meat is another man's poison!*]

Evelyn Hayes, Lemoore, CA

- Iris that rebloomed this fall as reported on October 16th:

Belvi Queen—began in Sept.

Blazing Sunrise—10/12; still in bloom

Earl of Essex—10/10; pretty!

Feed Back—9/15; still in bloom

Immortality—9/20; still in bloom

Jean Guymer—10/10; still blooming

Matrix—10/2; blooming its head off!

Northward Ho—10/4; new; had 2 stalks

Orange Harvest—10/10; no spring bloom but bright and nice now

Perfume Counter—10/4; still blooming

Spirit of Memphis—10/15; nice

Sugar Blues—9/10; moved in August, got a stalk!

Summer Olympics—10/13; lots of stalks

Corn Harvest—10/15; increases its head off and blooms too!

The medians still blooming: **Baby Blessed** (frost predicted so covered several with paper bags last night), **Golden Child**, **Plum Wine** (have 2 lovely collections in the house), and **I Bless**. Because of unusual weather—a lot of rain this spring and then weeds, weeds, and more weeds—these and about 20 more didn't get the best of care, so I am pleased with their performance.

Millie Townsend, Independence, MO

- At least one inch a week of moisture is the key to good rebloom in our very sandy soil here in eastern Michigan. Have had outstanding rebloom on **Coral Charmer**, **Queen Dorothy**, **Pink Attraction**, and **Violet Returns**.

Frank Crawford, Washington, MI

- ...The two frosts we've had this week [10/25/92] took care of all the tenders so am busy cleaning up the beds. Cut several stalks Monday when we got home—good thing since next morning it went down to 28°. **Ditto**, **Corn Harvest**, **Feed Back**, **I Bless**, **Flower Shower**, **Summer Pink**, **Cayenne Capers** are out now. Several more are coming on if it doesn't get too



SEPTEMBER REPLAY (F. JONES '92)

brisk, among them: **Brother Carl**, **Summer Holidays**, **Autumn Mists**, **Bethany Claire** and **Belvi Queen**. ...Thanks for **September Replay**—the three rhizomes should make a fantastic clump.

Sara Marley, Purcellville, VA

- ...Am not a reblooming aficionado. However, I feel constrained to report the following to a fellow editor: From early October until frost (also in October) **Queen Dorothy**, A-3, a seedling from Don Spoon, **Lucie Andry** (Spoon '93), **Earl of Essex**, **Pink Attraction**, **Billionaire**, and **Immortality** rebloomed here in the Nation's Capitol.

Phil Ogilvie, Washington, DC

- It is September and I have had continuous iris bloom since February. Notable re-

bloomers include **Eleanor Roosevelt**, **Darkling**, **Matrix**, **Suky**, **Love's Allure**, **Earl of Leicester**, **Immortality**, **Color-watch** and **Beverly Sills**. I recently saw a spectacular seedling from Ben Hager—it was a lovely blue with 5 branches—looked like a tree trunk standing in a bucket. Ben is reluctant to introduce it as he doesn't feel it reblooms early enough to do well other than in warm parts of the country. I grow over 600 irises and have only had one judge come to my garden during this bloom season.

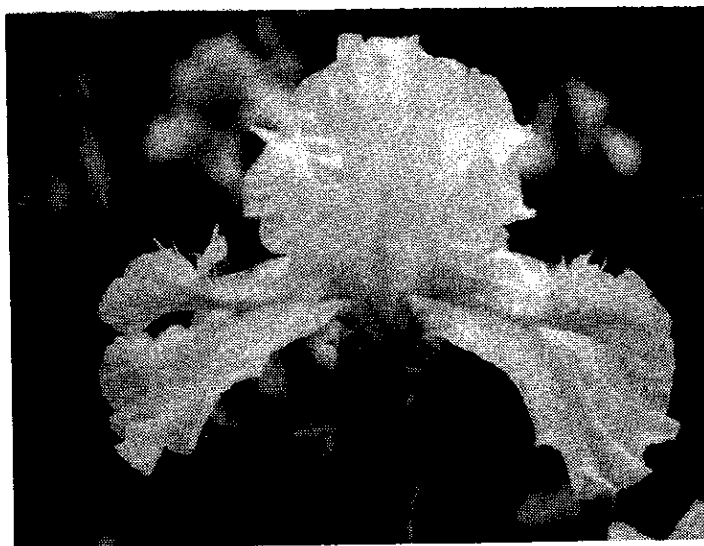
George Young, Santa Rosa, CA

- ...Here are a couple of observations concerning our garden which are apparently related directly to the unusual weather conditions [*cool and wet*] we experienced earlier this year: seed and seed pod development is apparently almost non-existent. I hybridized extensively and seem to have very few pods. I also got several false pregnancy pods. ...Bloom was beautiful and abundant in our front yard where we have many plants that have partial rebloomer 'blood'; all with remontant genes seem to have been resistant to most of the weather except for seed production.

Louise Smith, Williamsburg, VA

- ...Among the varieties giving the repeat bloom in June were **Mesmerizer** (Byers '91), a white with huge, lovely flounces, and several of my own introductions:

MESMERIZER—SA AND, ALMOST—RE



Sunny Disposition, **Immortality**, **Sign of Virgo**, **Northward Ho**, **Silver Dividends** and **Clarence**. A number of medians did likewise, especially **Jewel Baby**, **Baby Blessed** and **I Bless**. The temperature in June was of record coolness for Durham.

Mesmerizer was perhaps my favorite of the many introductions of the late Monty Byers that I grow. The repeat bloom was a total surprise. That does not mean that **Godsend** has gone down in my estimation; it is close to being my favorite iris and is a lovely pink with a dash of violet at the end of each beard. In many gardens it boasts purple horns but not here.

All Lit Up produced a tiny bloom that shows it will be a very colorful yellow amoena with red beards. **All American** promises to be a blue with abundant charm and reddish beards. **Rock Star**, on a short stalk, (first year) refuses to play second fiddle to anything! The four **Immortality** seedlings, **Silver Screen**, **Second Wind**, **Winterland** and **Zurich** gave good performances. **Zurich** gave the best fall display.

...There is a nice show of bloom here now [3 November]. **Sunny Disposition** is just wonderful with excellent form and very good branching. **Northward Ho** likewise, just excellent stalks and very nice plicata flowers in a pinkish shade. **Low Ho Silver** has 2 stalks out; it is narrow at hafts but otherwise very nice. **High Ho Silver** has done NOTHING UNTIL NOW when it is sending up a stalk. **Zurich** is a star right now! I lifted the clumps and put manure under each and perhaps that helped it, but it never did this well for me before.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Durham, NC

- A big THANK YOU to all the Region Six members who voted the AIS Symposium Ballot....Two reliable rebloomers, **Queen Dorothy** and **Immortality** are in the upper fourth of the list. [#17 and #14 respectively]

Dorothy Willott, RVP, Beachwood, OH

- 1992 was not a good year for rebloom as I

had reset all my rebloomers—or purported rebloomers—in mid year and it slowed down the fall bloom cycle.

Producing flowers before frost were the ever dependable **Eleanor Roosevelt**, (IB); **I Bless**, (BB); and **Baby Blessed**, (SDB). I would have to rate Frank Jones' **Autumn Bugler**, **Grape Adventure** and **Golden Encore** (TBs all) as my most reliable, year in—year out reblooming iris. One TB that has never failed to throw stalks since appearing in my garden is Horace Wright's 1977 **Coral Charmer**. This year it was caught by frost before opening its flowers as were the majority of my remountants.

We had a heavy frost in early October—as we almost always do. I covered all my emerging stalks—as I always do, but the difference this year was that we did not have our usual month of frost free days after the initial early, hard freezes. I finally got tired of hauling the protection on and off the yet-to-bloom stalks week after week and just let them freeze. A real shame as there were stalks on many, many irises.

One of the surprises were good stalks on **Clity Lights** (M. Dunn '91) as it was not registered as a remountant and is not reported as a sometimes rebloomer in the *Checklist of Reblooming Iris*. On the other end of the age spectrum; **Dawn** (Yeld, 1911) had, as it almost always does, half a dozen stalks.

I wish I could report that rebloom is a ruling passion with me but, unfortunately, it's not a major factor in my garden for reasons that I haven't entirely solved. Shade is a problem in our front display beds but is not a limiting factor in the back yard. Water is not the culprit as I supplement whenever moisture falls below optimum level. Whatever, those that rebloom I note and enjoy; the others...

Dick Sparling, Olney, MD

- Here is my rebloom report as of 10/15/92:
September Buttercup—since 9/3, last bloom today, 11 stems in all
Autumn Bugler—7/10 and again today
Lady Emma—in bloom since 9/11
Ahead of Time—since 9/17, just ended
Grape Adventure—first bloom 10/1, beautiful color

Born Again—in bloom since 9/21
Blessed Again—9/27, another stalk coming

Harvest of Memories—10/10, beautiful big blooms

Brother Carl—10/14

Baby Blessed—10/15

In late August a pretty iris labelled **Sweet Summer** appeared without our being aware of its coming. I don't have a description of **Sweet Summer** so I am not sure it really is. **Perfume Counter** is putting up a stem. Of all the rebloomers, **Immortality** doesn't do a thing for me; I may have to move it.

Betty Worrell, Williamsburg, VA

Native Iris Notes

J. New York Bot. Gdn. 35: p17-18, 26 Jan '34

Submitted by Phil Ogilvie, Wash. D.C.

II. Autumn Flowering of Louisiana Iris

Some recent performances among the Louisiana irises may give heart to those who are seeking for a race of autumn-flowering irises. In one of our plantations of irises set out with plants from the temporary nursery...in the summer of 1932, an interesting phenomenon was observed. About a month after the regular flowering season—June—the plants of several of the irises collected prior to 1931 began to flower. From the first week in August to the last week in September, normal flowerstalks two and a half to three and a half feet appeared. With one exception they were pink- or red-flowered species. Some of the stalks bore as many as nine flowers, and many of the flowers were exceptionally fine. Will these plants repeat this routine next year? Unfortunately the late flowering period did not permit the ripening of the seeds.

Iris growers who may see this note and who have received plants from this collection may be interested in watching their autumn behavior. We have no assurance that these plants will repeat their fall program next year, but we shall await the time with interest.

John K. Small

Proposed By-laws Of The Reblooming Iris Society

Article I. Name

Section 1. The name of this non-profit organization (See Section 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Code) shall be THE REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY, hereinafter designated as the RIS, a section of the AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY (AIS).

Article II. Objectives - The objectives of the RIS shall be:

Section 1. To encourage and support: scientific research, the culture and improvement of reblooming irises, and garden visiting.

Section 2. To collect and disseminate information on history, classification, hybridizing, climatic range, health and varietal descriptions of reblooming irises.

Section 3. To promote fall shows and/or exhibitions for the purpose of educating the public, fellow irisarians, and for the enjoyment of all.

Section 4. To encourage membership in and cooperation with the: American Iris Society, regional and local societies.

Section 5. No part of the revenues of RIS shall inure to the benefit of any of its members.

Article III. Membership And Dues

Section 1. Membership is dependent upon AIS membership.

(a) There shall be the following classes of members: Single, Dual, either annual or triennial; Life, or Honorary Life.

(b) Only members in good standing of RIS shall have voting privileges.

(c) Dual membership shall be limited to any two members residing at the same address with each having voting privileges, however, only one copy of *The Recorder* shall be sent.

(d) Life membership is non-transferable, carries full membership privileges, shall be limited to individuals and dependent upon membership in the AIS.

Section 2. Dues for all classes of members shall be established by the Board of Directors. Members whose dues remain unpaid 60 days after receiving a written notice shall be removed from the RIS

membership list without further notice.
Section 3. Honorary Life membership may be granted by the Board of Directors to a member in recognition of distinguished service in the field of RIS activities. An Honorary Life member shall be responsible for his own AIS membership, but will no longer have to pay dues to RIS.

Section 4. Individuals or organizations may subscribe to the periodical publications of the society by paying an amount equal to the annual or triennial membership dues. If such individuals or organizations do not fulfill all requirements for membership they shall be designated 'subscribers' and shall not have voting or other membership privileges.

Article IV. Meetings

Section 1. An annual meeting shall be held in conjunction with the AIS National Convention, or at the call of the President.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Board of Directors when deemed necessary. The 'Board' shall be required to call such meetings upon the written request of one-fifth ($1/5$) of the voting membership. Notice of such meetings shall be mailed to each voting member at least fifteen days prior to the date of the meeting, stating the business to be conducted.

Section 3. A majority of the RIS Board of Directors present shall constitute a quorum at any business meeting.

Section 4. The 'Board' shall meet at the call of the President, or may be called by a written notice signed by a majority of the 'Board.'

Article V. RIS Board Of Directors And Officers - shall be composed of elected and appointed officers:

Section 1. The elected officers are: President, Vice-president, Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and the four AREA directors. The President shall appoint: a Membership Secretary, a Publicity Director and an Editor for *The Recorder*. All of the above must be members of AIS and RIS and will have voting privileges on the 'Board.'

Section 2. The President and the Treasurer may be elected from the same geographical area. The President and Vice-

president shall not be from the same area. One Director shall be elected to represent each geographical AREA in the AIS regions and they are as follows:
EASTERN AREA: REGIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 16, & 19

SOUTHERN AREA: REGIONS 5, 10, 17, 22, 23, & 24

MIDWESTERN AREA: REGIONS 6, 8, 9, 18, 21, & overseas

WESTERN AREA: REGIONS 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 20

Section 3. The 'Board' shall have control and management of the affairs, policies, and business of RIS, and may suggest a BY-LAW change in order to create additional geographical areas when deemed necessary. Upon creation of a new area, the Board may appoint a Director to serve until the next election. Each new area shall have a Director and (s)he shall serve a term of four(4) years, with a limit of two consecutive terms.

Section 4. The President, the Vice-President, the Recording/Corresponding Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be elected for a three(3) year term. The AREA Directors shall be elected, one each year for a four(4) year term or until their successors are elected. An officer may succeed him/herself in office for a maximum of two(2) terms. All officers that are duly elected at the annual meeting shall assume office at the close of that meeting.

Section 5. Business of the 'Board' may be conducted by mail, telegraph, telephone or other communications systems provided all members are contacted and confirm their vote by mail, and that their vote is made part of the record.

Section 6. Finance

(a) The Board of Directors shall determine the official depository for the funds of RIS and designate the officers who may sign checks.

(b) Revenue from sources other than dues may be raised as recommended by the 'Board' and used for meeting the expenses of RIS.

(c) Debts shall not be incurred by any officer in the name of RIS unless authorized in writing by the 'Board.'

(d) No part of the revenues of RIS shall

inure to the benefit of any member.

Section 7. Duties of Officers

(a) The President - shall preside at all meetings of RIS, the Board of Directors, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee. Three tellers are to be appointed by the President before the annual election to tabulate the ballots, if ballots are used. These results are reported to the President, who in turn, announces the results of the election.

(b) The Vice-President - shall, in the absence of the President, exercise the functions of the President, and shall assume the office of the President in case of a vacancy. His duties shall include contact with each AREA Director pertaining to activities relative to re-blooming irises and rebloom performance of cultivars in each area. The Vice-President should encourage AREA Directors to give their constituents support and advice in promoting and organizing fall shows, exhibitions and/or garden visitations.

(c) The Recording/Corresponding Secretary - shall keep all minutes and records of: RIS, the Board of Directors, and assimilate and reply to all correspondence as directed. The Secretary shall have ballots prepared for use, if needed, for the annual election. The Secretary shall record in writing, any additional nominations made from the floor, during the election.

(d) The Treasurer - shall receive, record and account for ALL monies of the RIS and shall pay all bills and/or expenditures approved by the President and/or the Board of Directors. It is recommended, but not required, that the offices of Treasurer and the Membership Secretary be filled by the same person.

(e) The Publicity Director - shall be a member of the Publications Committee, solicit advertisements from hybridizers and/or commercial gardens and, in general, help popularize the re-blooming iris. He shall give a yearly report to the 'Board,' summarizing activities, and send articles periodically to the AIS Bulletin regarding rebloomers.

(f) The four AREA Directors - serve on

the Board of Directors, advise the President and Editor of any items of interest from their areas. They shall encourage reblooming shows and garden tours for rebloomers and, in general, support programs to educate the public about rebloomers. They shall report annually to the V-P; those activities which relate to remontants and what cultivars are reported to rebloom in their respective areas.

(g) The Editor - shall have charge of *The Recorder*, the official publication of RIS.

(h) The Membership Secretary - shall receive dues and s/he shall transfer funds to the main Treasury when a monetary level is reached as determined by the 'Board.' It is recommended, but not required, that the offices of Treasurer and the Membership Secretary be filled by the same person. S/he shall keep all records of members, welcome new members in writing, furnish mailing labels to the Editor of *The Recorder* and supply all new members with a list of commercial sources for reblooming irises. This list will be based on those growers advertising in the *Recorder* and all others who pay a fee to have their names and addresses included in the listing of sources. These listings will be available to others who request it. The Membership Secretary shall notify members, in writing, 30 days prior to their membership renewal date. After 60 days if no response is received for renewal, the member will automatically be deleted from the membership rolls.

Article VI. Committees: There shall be the following standing committees: Membership, Publications, Slides, Historian and Robins, who shall be appointed by the President subject to approval by the 'Board' and responsible to the President.

Section 1. The Membership Committee shall propose ways and means of increasing membership both in RIS and in AIS. The Membership Secretary shall be chairman of this committee.

Section 2. The Publications Committee shall be composed of the Publicity Director (who shall be Chairman), the Editor of the *Recorder*, Regional Editors, the

Art and Design Editor, and any future Editors who may be appointed to *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*, this being the official publication of RIS (herein referred to as the *Recorder* or *RIR*). This committee shall perform any editing or publication duties connected with the *Recorder*, such as gathering material for publication from other members, and other printed or mechanically reproduced literature as requested by the Chairman and authorized by the Board of Directors. This committee shall devise ways and means of popularizing reblooming irises among the general public by recommendations regarding culture, displays, contests, articles in newspapers and/or magazines, taped television spots, and education by any other means feasible. The Publications Committee shall report to the Board of Directors

Section 3. The Slide Committee shall collect slides of reblooming irises and send them out on loan for meetings at the request of various groups of members. All expenses of mailing, insuring, etc., shall be borne by the requesting party. It is suggested that a slide set contain no more than 80 slides, and that there be several different topics. Namely one set could be all Median Rebloomers, another all TBs, or pre 80s, 60s, etc., as an example.

Section 4. The Historian shall keep a scrapbook of news items or articles about members of RIS or of reblooming irises, a copy of each issue of *The Recorder* and serve as liaison to HIPS.

Section 5. The Robin Committee shall foster and encourage the formation of Robins and shall extract from letters (with the consent of the writer), such information as may be worthy of publication.

Section 6. The President shall have authority to create additional committees when the need arises with the approval of the Board.

Section 7. The Nominating Committee:

(a) The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three people: (1) the immediate past president; (2) the most senior director; and (3) a member-at-large appointed by the President, each of whom shall be from a different

Queen. This spring **Stellar Lights** bloomed out completely with 5 bloom stalks from one rhizome. Although I pollinated it, it didn't set any seed pods.

A Halloween Halo seedling, 88-171-11 Weiler, has been marvelous! I am very, very happy with it although it hasn't shown much increase. I got two seed pods on it with pollen from the most reliable **Belvi Queen** and also use it to pollinate a re-blooming seedling. All together I got only a few, but for me very interesting, seed pods last spring because it was very rainy during the whole iris season. Another Weiler seedling from remontant lines, 85-101-1, also grew very well and it seems to be very resistant to adverse weather. The standards are somewhat open but that could be due to the rainy weather.

For spring bloomers, I should also mention **Hot Pink** which grew like crazy until I dug it last summer. It flowered three wonderfully branched stalks and it has survived the winter well in a small pot. ☺

1992 AIS Awards to Reblooming Cultivars

compiled by Anne Lowe

[A listing of location where rebloom has been reported follows each cultivar]

✪ M E D A L S ✪

DYKES MEDAL

Runner-up

Edith Wolford (Hager) CA

KNOWLTON MEDAL

Runner-up

Music Box Dancer (Roderick) CA

COOK DOUGLAS MEDAL

Sun Doll (B. Jones) CA, KS, OK, OR, TX, WA

Runners-up

Jewel Baby (E. Hall) CA, IL, KS, KY, MD, MO, NE, OH, TX, UT, VA, WA
Little Annie (Niswonger) CA

AWARD OF MERIT

MDB Tiny Cherub (Hager) CA

SDB Cherry Tart (T. Aitken) VA

BB Peach Petals (Niswonger) Germany, Australia

TB Supreme Sultan (Schreiner's) CA,
Rustler (Keppel) CA
Fringe Benefits (Hager) CA, OR

Runner-up

Stellar Lights (T. Aitken) CA, KS,
MS, OR, TX, UT, WA

HONORABLE MENTION

MDB Perfume (Byers) CA, IA, MO, NE,
OH, TX, UT, VA, WA

SDB Cimarron Rose (H. Nichols) CA, OK
Kiwi Slices (Niswonger) CA
Ruby Locket (Niswonger) CA, OR
Rainbow Sherbet (Weiler) CA, IA,
TX, VA, WA, England, Holland
Blitz (Weiler) AZ, CA, NE, WA
Dark Crystal (Byers) CA, MO, NE,
UT, WA

IB Candy Floss (Keppel) CA, UT

BB Lenora Pearl (H. Nichols) CA, OK, VA
Faux Pas (Keppel) mild climates

TB Caribbean Dream (Schreiner's) WA
Churchill Downs (K. Mohr) WA
Scandia Delight (Schreiner's) OR
Double Agent (Maryott) CA, TX
Golden Galaxy (Weiler) TX
Romanticist (Keppel) CA, UT

WALTHER CUP

Runners-up

Lenora Pearl, BB (H. Nichols) CA, OK, VA
Fauz Pas, BB (Keppel) mild climates

IN MEMORIAM

Isabelle Campbell, VA

Frank Charles, KS Ethel Young, CA

AREA. The names of the committee will be reported in the fall issue of *The Recorder*.

- (b) When past presidents are not available to serve, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the 'Board,' the number of members necessary to complete the three-member committee, each of whom shall be from a different AREA.
- (c) The committee shall elect its own chairperson.
- (d) The committee shall select one nominee for each office to be filled.
- (e) The report of this committee shall be included in the spring issue of *The Recorder*.

Article VII. Amendments

Section 1. These By-laws may be amended at any annual meeting or special meeting of the membership by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of those in attendance, provided such amendments shall have been submitted in writing to the membership at least thirty (30) days before the meeting in which such action would be taken. OR:

Section 2. These By-laws may also be amended by means of a mail poll of voting members, provided such amendment shall have been mailed at least thirty(30) days before the date set for receipt of returned ballots. In any mail poll, a two third(2/3) majority vote of all returned ballots in favor of such amendment will secure its passage.

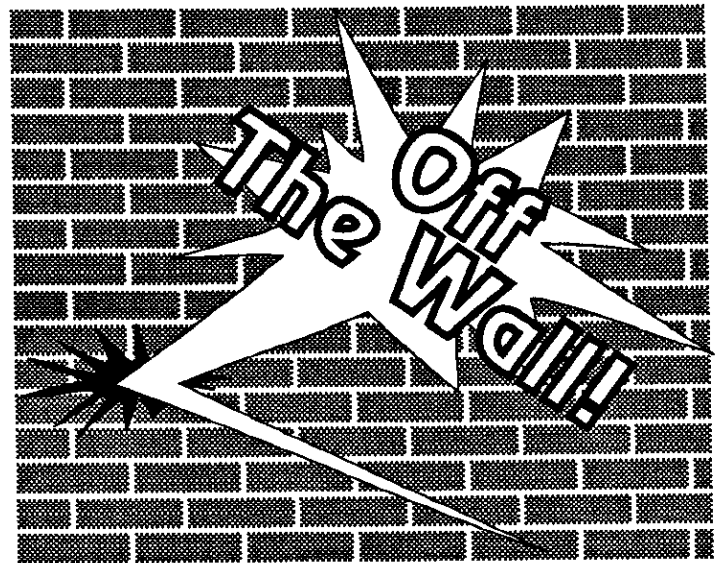
Section 3. The Board of Directors may propose amendments to the By-laws or amendments to the By-laws may be proposed by petition of any fifteen(15) members of RIS, not more than ten of whom may be from any one geographical area.

Section 4. Neither the RIS By-laws nor amendments may conflict with AIS By-laws.

Article VIII. Dissolution Of The Reblooming Iris Society

Section 1. In the event of dissolution of RIS, after paying or adequately providing for its debts and obligations, all assets shall revert to the AIS, the non-profit parent organization.

Submitted: Sara Marley, Chair, By-laws Comm.



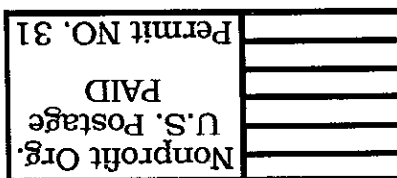
What public outreach can be expected from two 800 lb gorillas? Nearly all engaged in popularizing, judging, showing, hybridizing and marketing iris are amateurs or Mom & Pop small businesses. Except of course, the above noted 800 pounders, Schreiner's and Cooley's iris gardens.

It would not be amiss to state that a considerable amount of involved irisarians' time and money go to improve and popularize iris. Can we say the same of the two firms whose gross incomes from marketing iris approach ten million dollars per year? To place into perspective the above amount—one percent of the two establishments' gross income exceeds the AIS annual budget.

What degree of commitment can irisarians reasonably expect from firms living entirely from profits made on our flower? We insist other organizations that deal entirely in one product line devote significant resources to improve that product. Cooley's and Schreiner's have shirked this obligation.

When is the last time that you recall a donation from either firm to the Scientific fund? When have you seen a donation to the AIS foundation, the Memorial fund? How many scholarships have been underwritten by these firms? What commitment to preservation of the iris gene pool have they undertaken? How many research projects have Cooley's and Schreiner's funded?

If there is no external pressure it is easy for an organization to focus exclusively on it's bottom line. Change is possible but must spring from broad-based concern. How long will you, gentle reader, continue to take up the slack for these companies? MBL, Editor.



Address Correction Requested

American Iris Society
Reblooming Iris Section
12219 Zilles Rd.
Blackstone, VA 23824

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