

Annual Banquet

Climaxing the meeting, some five hundred persons filled the huge Continental Ballroom of the Peabody Hotel for the banquet on Saturday night. John Pierce, General Chairman of the meeting for the Memphis Area Iris Society, introduced Sam Caldwell, the genial and perennial favorite Master of Ceremonies. Sam was in fine form and kept things interesting throughout the evening.

President Walker spoke briefly on behalf of the American Iris Society, thanking the Memphis Area Iris Society for its efforts in making possible this 1957 meeting, and thanking the members thereof for their individual efforts in making it such an outstanding success.

W. F. Scott, Jr., Chairman of the Awards Committee, presented certificates for the 1956 awards. Not present, was Fred Deforest whose First Violet won the 1956 Dykes Memorial Medal. Among those present to receive their awards were Walter Welch whose dwarf iris, Sparkling Eyes, won the Caparne Award; and to receive Award of Merit certificates, Robert and Connie Schreiner for Blue Sapphire and Golden Sunshine, Mel Wallace for Cathedral Bells, and David Hall for his iris, May Hall.

The announcement of the results of the balloting for the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup revealed that Foxfire with 57 votes was the winner, bringing the cup to E. R. Fox of Memphis. The runner-up was John Pierce's Celestia with 51 votes.

The Hybridizer's Medal for 1956 was awarded to Tell Muhlestein. Tell was not present at the meeting. The Distinguished Service Medal for 1956 had been awarded at the opening night assembly, to Geddes Douglas in recognition of his long and meritorious service as Secretary of the Society.

A feature of the banquet was a musical program by Mrs. Paul Wilson talented soprano, and Mr. Lloyd Zurbrigg. Mrs. Wilson, who sang several numbers, is a daughter of Mrs. Wm. Murrah, an ardent worker in the Memphis Area Iris Society, and an authority on the Glendale strain of azaleas produced by Mr. Ben Morrison, former Editor of the Bulletin. Lloyd Zurbrigg, pianist of note, RVP in Region sixteen, was accompanied by Mrs. Zurbrigg on the trip to Memphis.

The principal speaker on the banquet program was Dr. Richard R. Overman, who gave an interesting and informative talk on some of the many aspects of irradiation.

So ended another fine National Meeting.