

## Garden of Mr. and Mrs. William Childs

JAY C. ACKERMAN, Mich.

Guarded by a gigantic maple tree, no less than four feet through the trunk at the ground, the home and gardens of Mr. and Mrs. William Childs was the final stop of our busses on Saturday, the last day of the meeting. This carefully planned garden took the form of many beds cut into spacious lawns. Large evergreens furnished a backdrop, and two sprays of water playing into a large pool added a focal point to the nicely arranged beds of iris, poppies, peonies, lupines, and other perennials. Unfortunately, we arrived a few days early for the full effect of color in this garden, but the potential could be envisioned. Iris bloom was at about a twenty-five percent level overall although a very fine list of guest iris was not participating in the bloom to that extent. We were told that practically everything in the garden had been covered the night before to protect them from a heavy frost, and there was much to be covered. Noted as doing and blooming well were Duet, Consolation, Blue Serene, Magic Sails, and Utah Sky. Pseudacorus was blooming in the pool. Of special interest and performing well, was a complete collection of American Dykes Medal winners, from San Francisco, first winner in 1927, on up to Violet Harmony, the 1957 winner. The Childs extended their hospitality with coffee and homemade doughnuts for every one.

## Garden of Fitz and Fanny Randolph

DOROTHY DENIS, New Jersey

The Randolphs have a unique garden. It is situated upon the very top of a high hill, almost a mountain, directly above and behind the town of Ithaca.

The house is contemporary in design, and the garden consists of a series of long beds cut into the grass, designed to hold the many guest iris sent to the Randolphs for the Convention. To the right of the road, as you face the house, is the Doctor's "workshop"—about four acres of iris set in long rows.

The busses huffed and puffed up the long circling road until the final stop some hundred feet below the house at the foot of the driveway. It was a glorious sight when, after walking up these last few feet, to see those acres of iris, in the very peak of bloom, stretching as far as the eye could see.

It was cold in this garden even though we arrived shortly before eleven o'clock. But there must have been some good warm weather previously, because there was a most satisfactory amount of bloom. Immediately upon entering the garden we came upon the guest beds, and as we approached we heard, "Well! It made it." Here was Lloyd Zurbrigg, pleased that his Princess Anne was in bloom. Princess Anne is a bright,

light yellow, with a white area in the falls, and bordered with darker and brighter yellow than the yellow of the standards.

Patrician (H. F. Hall) won the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup. This heavy white with smooth yellow hafts and yellow beard was lovely everywhere.

Mr. Paul Cook's Progenitor children soon had a group around them. There was Emma Cook, a large clump of seedling 21655, Whole Cloth, and Kiss Me Kate. Of these I liked best the form of Whole Cloth, with its white standards and flaring light blue falls. Kiss Me Kate is a small beautifully proportioned Border iris, creamy white, with slight light blue border on the falls. This new line with the "different" blue is greatly coveted.

Luscious (Carney) is another charming Border iris of light apricot with light tangerine beard, making a lovely front of the Border clump.

Sweetheart's Folly (Cassebeer) is a very large, clean cream with smooth yellow shoulders, yellow beard, and slightly darker tinge of yellow around the ruffled standards and falls. I couldn't see anything "folly" about it and was told there was a little story behind the name—seems that when Mrs. Cassebeer made this cross she was told "Nothing will come from that," but it did.

The following varieties were especially noted:

Swan Ballet (Muhlestein), wide, ruffled, flaring heavy white, with white-tipped beard. Fine stalk and balance.

Cliffs of Dover (Fay), this splendid upstanding white is good everywhere.

Olympic Torch (Schreiner), tall, ruffled copper self with very smooth texture. Brilliant.

Arabi Pasha (Anley), deep blue with blue-tipped beard. The flaring falls have a pert little dip.

Breaking Wave (K. Smith), large, well-formed white with slightly rolling ruffles.

Inverness (Watkins), big white with white beard, in a handsome clump.

Precious Days (K. Smith), tall tailored soft blue with good stalk and balance.

Ken (Rundlett), this slightly ruffled medium blue with blue-tipped beard is well-branched and very floriferous. There was a large clump with many, many stalks, but only two were open.

Exotic Blue (Randolph), it is hard to describe this slatey blue with olive overlay and huge brown beard tipped olive. This is truly "different," and no one will say about this, "Father had that twenty years ago."

Crispette (Schreiner), wide orchid-pink, crisp and clean. A useful color.

Tarn Hows (Randall), attractive tall rosy-brown blend.

Girl Friday (Douglas), very clean light pink self with a reddish beard, and no yellow on the hafts.

Valimar (Hamblen), smooth, heavy-substanced apricot-pink, vivid tangerine-red beard, and excellent stalk.

Billet Doux (Douglas), small, nicely proportioned light blue. Still one of the loveliest blue Border iris.

Cricket (Knowlton), Border variegata with brassy yellow standards and red-brown falls.

Several embryo-cultured seedlings from (Parisiana x *Gatesii*). Looking very Onco and attracting much attention.

Randolph 55-48-1 ((Deep Black) X (Sable sib x Storm King)). Handsome velvety black with matching beard and no marks.

Rows of bloomed-out species, dwarfs, and medians. There was still one small late one (Randolph 56-13-2) from a white seedling x *olbiensis* with white standards and light blue falls.

At luncheon, which was served at Willard Straight Hall on the Cornell Campus, we were asked if we wished to go back to the garden, and the consensus was "definitely." After choice of a lecture or demonstration of chromosome counting and embryo culture being done by Mrs. Randolph, we were taken back. But even so, since there was the long ride back to Syracuse, there still remained many, many things yet to be seen.

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## FRED W. CASSEBEER

VERONICA M. QUIST, Spring Valley, N.Y.

Breeding beautiful, hardy, free-flowering irises is but one of the many fascinating pursuits in which Fred Cassebeer of West Nyack, New York, is engaged. He is well known, not only as an iris grower, but for his excellent flower photographs, his lectures on horticulture, and his many contributions to the American Iris Society.

Fred was born in New York City and has spent all of his life in the state. It was while he attended Dartmouth College that he first became interested in photography. He has taken innumerable fine photographs in black and white. Then with the advent of color slides came the opportunity for him to catch the many lovely colors of the flowers as they appeared in the garden.

The American Iris Society Bulletins have numerous samples of his art. He has also made photographs for magazines such as the *Ladies' Home Journal*, the *Farm Journal*, the *Flower Grower*, and *Popular Gardening*; as well as for garden calendars, catalogs, and so on. His pictures have been in demand by garden clubs and members of various garden groups. As photographer for the Federated Garden Clubs, he has taken slides of horticultural exhibits and flower arrangements at shows and Garden Club meetings, at shows for the Horticultural Society of New York, and at the International Flower Shows.