

Exhibition Committee Report-1976

RENA M. CRUMPLER, Chairman

A total of 133—another gain in 1976 for the number of shows scheduled. How unfortunate that extreme weather conditions ruined the hopes of so many! All through the season I got such reports as: "It snowed the day before the show," "We were completely frozen out," "We had no rain for two months" or "We had so much rain that we are beset with rot." Hail riddled the irises in some places. Almost everywhere the season was two weeks to a month early. Anyway, by August 1, I had received reports indicating that 107 shows "got on the road." ("On the table" may be more appropriate.) Eight shows were officially reported as canceled, the other eighteen have not been heard from officially, but, by grapevine, most of them had to be canceled.

The schedules came in beautifully this year. All but a very few were on time. Thank you for your effort in this connection. In the Winter issue of the BULLETIN I will have a few suggestions and modifications which should make it easier for you, mostly in connection with ordering show supplies. There were some complaints about sending the schedule to me for approval two months in advance of the show but not nearly as many as expected and most seemed pleased with the new procedures. I am confident that you will all be pleased when you are used to it because it gets a big job behind you. Those who tried cultivar shows for the first time appear to be delighted with the results.

Region 22 is again up-front with sixteen shows reported. Region 14 had thirteen, Region 15 had eleven and Region 6 had ten.

The youth participation was stronger than ever. Sixteen shows qualified for certificates and three qualified as "a show within a show." This means that the Youth Section would have qualified as an accredited A.I.S. show on its own even if there had been no adult show. These were The Mio Irisarians at Mio, Michigan, The Society for Louisiana Irises at Lafayette, Louisiana, and the Washington Iris Club, Washington, Missouri. One separate Youth Show was sponsored by the Central Arkansas Iris Society at Little Rock.

No ties for the Nelson Award this year! CUP RACE was declared Queen in five shows compared with three for SHIPSHAPE and two for F.A.C. McCULLA, HIGH LIFE, ROCKET FLAME, RASPBERRY RIPPLES and SURF RIDER.

One hundred thirty-six seedlings received Exhibition Certificates, an increase of seventeen over 1975. Many seedlings which received certificates for "Best in Show" also received enough votes from judges visiting the shows to qualify for the Exhibition Certificate. However, in such cases, only one certificate was issued per seedling.

Your Exhibitions Chairman is cooperating with your BULLETIN Editor in an effort to cut down on the amount of BULLETIN space required for the Exhibitions report. You will find every item reported that has been listed heretofore, although it may be in a