

## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS IRIS SOCIETY FORMED

A Southern Illinois Iris Society was organized during the first week of June, 1959, with the following officers elected:

President—Mr. John C. Brown, 327 E. Park Ave., Collinsville, Ill.

Vice-Pres.—Mrs. Ray Schweinfurth, 1817 Richview Road, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

Secretary—Mrs. Paul S. Knight, R. 3, Box 55, Norris City, Ill.

Treasurer—Mrs. E. R. Elliott, Box 165, Enfield, Ill.

Editor—Mrs. Steve Choisser, Benton Evening News, Benton, Ill.

Membership Chairman—Mrs. W. J. Hinkle, R. R. 4, Marion, Ill.

Test Garden Supervisor—James S. Tucker, 1424 So. Perrine, R. 3, Centralia, Ill.

The organizational meetings were held at the home of Mrs. W. J. (Georgia) Hinkle in Marion. Members to date total 105 with 33 new AIS Memberships.

Two regular meetings will be held each year: on the second Sunday of April unless it falls on Easter, then it will automatically be held the following Sunday, and the second Sunday of September at 2:00 PM.

The first regular meeting will be held on Sunday September 13, 1959, at 2:00 P.M. in the Auditorium of the Norris City High School, Norris City, Illinois. An iris auction will be held and color slides of iris will be shown as part of the program.

The S.I.I.S. decided to have a Test Garden and Mr. James S. Tucker, 1424 South Perrine, R. 3, Centralia, Illinois, graciously accepted the responsibility of being the Test Garden Director and creating the Test Plot on his home grounds. A maximum of three rhizomes per year may be placed in the Test Garden by any American Iris Society member at a charge of \$1.00 per rhizome and the rhizomes will be kept and grown in the Test Garden for a period of two years for testing and showing.

There will be two News Bulletins per year published by the S.I.I.S. Requirements for membership in the S.I.I.S. are membership in the AIS for at least one member of the family and \$1.00 per year dues. There were 23 Charter Members.

MRS. PAUL S. (LEDA) KNIGHT  
*Secretary*

---

### *In Memoriam*

#### **MR. JOSEPH C. BECHERER—1872-1959**

ADA BUXTON, Mo.

The American Iris Society and the Greater St. Louis Iris Society mourn the passing of a veteran irisarian on July 1, 1959 at the grand age of 87 years. Mr. Becherer was a hard worker, an ardent gardener, and a lover of iris. He was interested in breeding better iris when most of us still referred to them as "flags." His back yard garden was a joy to visit. Some of his earlier introductions included Morning Melody, Honolulu Belle, and Hiwassee. Snow Goddess, a more recent introduction, received the Award of Merit in 1958. This is a very good white with excellent form, substance, and growing habits. Mr. Becherer became a member of the AIS soon after it was organized, was appointed an Accredited Garden Judge soon after joining, and later was named an Honorary Judge.

We extend our sympathy to his wife and to his family in their bereavement. They have lost a loved one; we have lost an ardent garden friend.