

C. J. was a member of iris clubs in Tulsa, Ponca City, Stillwater, Oklahoma City, and Enid, helping all of them with his donations and attendance. He belonged to a daylily club in Oklahoma City and was happy that a new club was being formed in Tulsa. Its organizational meeting was the only one that he could attend.

He loved sharing plants. His contributions to sales were hundreds of well-grown plants. If he learned that a friend wanted a particular variety, he gave it to them. If he thought you might not know how to care for a plant, he explained what should be done to assure success.

Many women in AIS own pieces of iris jewelry fashioned from wood by C. J., and many plaques, garden signs and other carvings adorn the homes of irisarians. These were usually a distinctive pattern that was connected with the person's work. Each of the pieces is beautiful and crafted in loving friendship especially for the recipient.

In 1995 Region 22 honored C. J. and Kitty with the Betty Emmons Memorial Service Medal, the highest honor that the region bestows. In 1994, AIS awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal for his work as Publication Sales Director.

C. J. spent many years as an employee of an oil company, and he spent part of that time working in Liberia. Many of his co-workers attended his funeral services, showing the same respect for his work ethic and friendship that we in the iris society know.

C. J. and Kitty were married over 50 years, and they worked together perfectly as a team. It was C. J.'s love for Kitty that caused him to resign as Publication Sales Director when his health began to fail. He didn't want her to do the monumental tasks of that job alone.

He is survived by his wife, Kitty, and two sons, Mike and Greg. He is also survived by a host of friends who knew him as a hard worker, one who expected everyone to do the best they could, and a generous and loving man. We were all fortunate to have known him. We treasure the gifts he gave us, the greatest of which was his friendship.

Ron Mullin

IN MEMORIAM **MARY LOUISE DUNDERMAN** **(1916-1995)**

Mary Louise Dunderman of Akron, Ohio, passed away after a short illness in a nursing home on November 1, 1995. Her health had deteriorated for the last few years.

Mary Louise worked as a secretary for and later retired from Harwick Chemical Company. She lived at the old family home, caring for her mother after her father's death and then cared for two brothers, Jack and Frank. Jack passed away a couple of years ago, and Frank lives at the Dunderman home.

For years she raised, bred and grew Persian cats. As with iris, she was successful with this hobby. Her black Persian cat, named "Nightcap," was an All-American in 1955, meaning he was the best long-haired black Persian cat in both the United States and Canada.

Mary Louise began growing and hybridizing tall bearded irises in 1953. She also hybridized miniature dwarf bearded and aril-breds for a time. She was, at this time, active in the Dwarf Iris Society and a friend of Walter Welch in Middlebury, Indiana. In her travels to Middlebury, she learned more about irises and hybridizing. It was interesting to hear her describe the opportunities in her life, as she says, by "rubbing shoulders" with some of the leading and prominent hybridizers in the midwest in those years—Walter Welch, Paul Cook, Earl Roberts, Dave Hall and others.

With the revival of interest in the miniature tall bearded or table iris by Mrs. David (Alice) White of Hemet, California in the early 1950s, Mary Louise became interested in hybridizing MTBs. Along with others, she began collecting various iris species and the old diploids. These served as the foundation for her long, rich career and success in hybridizing MTBs, which she loved above all classes of iris.

Any and all who visited the Dunderman iris garden stood in awe at her work. Her garden consisted of a display bed containing both her latest MTBs and the latest MTBs from other hybridizers. The many other long rows were raised, neat and well-fed and well-grown.

In 1993, the AIS awarded Mary Louise its prestigious AIS Hybridizer's Medal in recognition of her outstanding hybridizing work with MTBs. It was an award well-given and of which she was very proud.

Her success with MTBs is enviable. Mary Louise introduced 33 MTBs of which 29 have received 36 awards. She has won the coveted Williamson-White Award six times (CAROLYN ROSE '74, PANDA '80, DOLL RIBBONS '82, CHICKEE '84, ROSEMARY'S DREAM '86, CRYSTAL RUFFLES '91, and the Williamson-White Medal with ROSEMARY'S DREAM '94). In addition, Mary Louise has won 29 Honorable Mention and two Awards of Merit, an outstanding and an impressive record in one class of iris.

In 1986, we combined our efforts under the OHIO GARDENS logo. In the spring of 1995, we selected and will be introducing several of her MTBs over the next few years. The iris world and Region 6 have lost a valued worker, friend and lover of iris. I will miss her and miss visiting her gardens and home. I have lost a friend, an advisor, correspondent and business partner.

Mary Louise was buried in The Holy Cross Cemetery in Akron, Ohio. She is survived by one brother, Frank, and one nephew, Gregg Dunderman of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

W. Terry Varner