

# TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY

## News & Views

Volume<sup>7</sup>, No. 7

November, 1959

Jingle Bells - Jingle Bells - Jingle Bells - Jingle Bells

Christmas is coming and the Twin City Iris Society wants all of you to join in the festivity and have fun. Since our regular meeting night falls on Thanksgiving Day we have post-poned it a week and will hold it on Thursday, December 3 at 8:00 p.m. Meeting place will be at Twin City Federal Building in downtown Minneapolis - Eighth & Marquette. We hope that this will be convenient to all members. There is a parking lot at the back of the building and the parking will be free. Enter the building at the rear door - from the parking lot and show your Iris Society membership card, or the envelope from the News & Views with your name on it to the guard at the door. This is most important!! This is to identify you as a member of the Society and is a precaution to prevent indiscriminate entering of the building by those unauthorized to do so. You may bring guests if you desire - just introduce them to the guard as your guests.

This meeting will be primarily a fun meeting and is our Christmas party for you. We hope everyone will come!! Adah Anderson, our Program Chairman, has planned an evening of fun and fellowship, including a smorgasbord, carol singing and exchange of gifts with, possibly, a visit from Old Saint Nick, himself.

Each person is asked to bring a gardening present - value approximately 50¢ - appropriately wrapped for the gift exchange, and 1 dozen Christmas cookies.

There will be a display of Christmas decorations and arrangements and we would like everyone who can to bring some decoration, arrangement or gift they have made or something that is peculiar to the observance of Christmas by different nationalities. This will give us all fresh and new ideas of things we in turn can use to make our own Christmas observance more enjoyable.

There will be installation of the new officers. Miss Rose McLearn of St. Paul will lead us in community carol singing.

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New officers to be installed:

Chairman: . . . . .Urban Ipsen  
1st Vice Chairman . . . . .Betty Van Buskirk  
2nd Vice Chairman . . . . .Miss Adah E.M. Anderson  
Secretary . . . . .Mrs. Ivy Lavacot  
Treasurer . . . . .Mr. Kenneth Shook  
Corresponding Secretary . . Mrs. Virginia Messer  
Directors: . . . . .Mr. Vern Landey  
                                  Mr. C. B. Gable  
                                  Mr. Victor Hartkopf

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We wish to share with you - though possibly it is too late for this year due to the unusually early winter - some thoughts. Mr. Robert Schreiner of Schreiner Iris Gardens sent to Miss Anderson about the covering of iris for the winter. Mr. Schreiner is, of course, an outstanding iris authority.

"COVERING IRIS: I have always advocated covering iris, doing a thorough job of it and doing it each year. I consider the cost of material and time consumed cheap insurance contrasted to stock losses due to failure to cover when a bad winter occurs. In Minnesota we found this method by far the best. It is to hill or ridge every iris plant with soil and/or sand so that a cone of hill or soil is around each iris plant, with the cone about 6" high. Granted this is easier to do in rows than in iris beds, there sand may be carried in and put directly on the plants so they do have this pyramid of soil with the plant in dead center and with its leaves projecting out a bit at the very point of the pyramid of soil. Then next I covered these ridged plants with marsh hay, to the thickness so if I dropped my hay fork on the hay and with the ground frozen the tines of the fork would not "ring" but give a muffled sound. If the tines "ring" then I would add more hay. I do not say this is the only thing to use. Leaves are alright if they can and will stay on the ridged rows and not blow off during windy dry periods in the middle of winter when most damage occurs.

My thinking along these lines is this. The sand or soil ridging acts as a roof first to shed any unseasonable rains

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in winter, and keeps ice between the rows and not on the plants. Secondly soil thaws out more slowly than plants exposed to air, and it seems a plant that thaws out slower comes out of the winter better, just as a person can use a sprinkling can and water down a frosted dahlia plant and save it from frost damage if he gets water to thaw it out slowly before the sun strikes the plant, so the function of this soil is to act as a poultice to draw things out slowly. The hay is not to prevent freezes, but to cut the severity of change and the shade from the hay prevents the soil from thawing if the temperature just jumps above a few degrees over 32. It also has this important function, it holds down drying out of the soil more. Actually more winter kill and damage is caused by dry cold winds that suck the moisture out of the plant so that it is frozen and below the moisture level it likes. If this occurs then you have winter kill, and both the hilling and the hay help mitigate the exposure element. The year 1935, I think it was, was a cold one in Minnesota, we had below zero temperatures every day and night without interruption for I think it was 29 days, not once did it go above zero. Some rows of iris of the same variety that I did not get as thoroughly covered as others showed exactly the extent of covering or protection given them. Where they were hilled and covered with hay they were the best. Where I did not get the hay on but had them hilled they were next best and where I did not hill I lost just about every plant, these losses were of the same row and the same variety.

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If the bus strike is still in effect at the time of the meeting and you don't have transportation call me at WE 9-8920 and every effort will be made to have someone pick you up. If individual members know of those who usually come by bus, show your Christmas spirit by offering these people a ride.

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These are the things to remember about the next meeting.

PLACE: Twin City Federal - 8th & Marquette, Minneapolis  
TIME: 8:00 P.M.  
DATE: Thursday - December 3, 1959  
BRING: Yourself - and your spouse, friend or guests.  
Christmas cookies  
Gift  
Iris membership card or letter.  
Christmas decoration or arrangement.  
Good appetite - remember the smorgasbord.

See you there!!! and to all

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!