

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. X, No. 2

February, 1962

Snow is still coming down, but with the warmer weather it seems that spring cannot be far away. I am sure that everyone will feel this way who comes to the next meeting of the Twin City Iris Society — Thursday, February 22 at the Y.W.C.A. — 12th and Nicollet — at the usual time 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Orville Fay who is one of the world's foremost iris hybridizers will be our speaker. He has said that he will bring slides and I am sure that the sight of those beautiful iris will be enough to chase the winter doldrums away. Added to that the ideas, the stimulation and the information he will bring us and it will add up to one of the foremost programs, not only of this year, but of any year; one you can't afford to miss.

We are also trying to get an "in" with the weather man so that the weather will be mild and the roads in good condition so that all of those members who live out-state as well as those of us who live in the Twin Cities will be able to come without slippery roads to contend with. We heartily urge all of you to attend and bring your friends who are interested in iris or gardening in general.

We are looking forward to Mr. Fay's program with eager anticipation and hope there will be a large crowd to welcome him.

Notes from the Program Chairman:

Last month's program on other than tall bearded irises, presented by Virginia Messer, was very interesting and informative. Several people took the time to tell us they enjoyed it. One member said she had had a book on the other species for a long time & had never become interested in it. After hearing Virginia, she went home and thoroughly enjoyed reading about the various branches of the iris genus. We want to thank our speaker for a very thorough job and a fine presentation.

Our next meeting should be the high point of our year. Mr. Orville Fay, world famous hybridizer, of Northbrook, Illinois, will be our speaker. He will show slides of some of his own introductions and probably we will get a preview of some of his promising seedlings yet unnamed. Be sure to invite your gardening friends to attend this meeting as our guests.

We are planning a slide contest for the near future. It is not too early to start going over your favorite slides to pick out the ones you want to enter.

MayBelle

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I think one of the pleasant aspects of being president is the excuse that it gives me to write these somewhat rambling letters. If they bore you — just don't bother to read them. I'll never know it, so I won't mind at all.

It was certainly gratifying to see the fine attendance at our January meeting. Frequently the first one or two meetings of the year are not very well attended,

presumably because it isn't easy to get enthusiastic about growing irises when our gardens are buried under a couple of feet of snow and the thermometer is hovering around zero. By the way, did you notice that I began to fidget with the gavel at 8:00 sharp? It finally banged at 8:07, not too far behind schedule. If we can all arrange to get to our meetings on time, we can get off the ground promptly, get our business out of the way, and leave more time for the program. I think everyone will approve.

There seems to be considerable interest among our members in the subject matter of the January program, the iris types other than the tall bearded. For those who like to putter and experiment, as I do, I might particularly suggest a fling at the species types. Not all of them take kindly to our climate, but a surprising number don't object to it at all. Of course they don't bear much resemblance to Frost and Flame or Lynn Hall, but they have a real charm of their own, ranging from the little Iris cristata, blooming early in the shade with the wild flowers, up to Iris dichotoma, standing as tall as five feet and covered from late July on with what look like dozens of orchid butterflies. To further increase the fun and add a "do it yourself" touch, many of the species can be grown from seed. I have some untried varieties on their way from England right now. When they arrive they will go into flats, and then out in the snow & cold to freeze until spring.

To change the subject completely, I have a notice from the Minnesota Horticulturist to pass along to our members. The matter of full & complete addresses has become very important. Since January 10 the post office does not return misdirected magazines to the publishers except at a prohibitive cost. As a result, they won't even know whether deliveries are being made or not until the subscriber complains. If any of our members fail to receive their Horts, this may be the difficulty.

I wonder whether our membership chairman will have anything to report at the February meeting. Our new member contest is definitely open right now, and I want very much to give somebody that Butterscotch Kiss next August. How about bringing your prospects to the February meeting, which will certainly be the highlight of the year?

G. F. Hanson, President

Notes from our Regional (Region 8) Vice President — G. B. Gable.

Disease Leaflet Available. Announcement was recently received of the publication of a leaflet by Dr. A. W. Dimock, Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell University. The title is, "Diseases of Bearded Irises." Single copies may be had for 10¢ each. Address: Mailing Room, College of Agriculture, Ithica, N.Y.

Only twenty-three Region 8 members of the A.I.S. sent in their ballots for the 1961 Popularity Poll. The top fifteen varieties and the number of votes each received:

14 Blue Sapphire	11 Sable Night	9 Chivalry
13 Mary Randall	10 Celestial Snow	9 Golden Garland
13 Palomino	10 Frost and Flame	9 Happy Birthday
12 Cliffs of Dover	10 Lady Ilse	9 Inca Chief
12 Violet Harmony	10 Truly Yours	9 Limelight

Notes from Regional V.P., G.B.Gable, cont'd.

Good results have been reported on the use of herbicides for control of weeds in iris gardens. Mr. David Flesh, Jefferson, Texas, reports: "I will clean out all dead leaves, weed the beds carefully, then scatter granular CHLORO-I.P.C. down the centers and between the iris plants in every row, since this compound saved us over 300 "man-hours" of labor in weeding our beds last season, without apparent damage to our iris plants."

Out in Washington and Oregon, Region 13, home of Blue Sapphire, twenty five irises got more votes in the 1960 Symposium than Blue Sapphire:

60 Amethyst Flame	45 Galilee	33 Melodrama
60 Black Taffeta	44 Happy Birthday	33 Truly Yours
58 Mary Randall	44 Olympic Torch	32 First Violet
52 Violet Harmony	41 Inca Chief	33 Pinnacle
49 Palomino	41 New Snow	31 Cascadian
47 Celestial Snow	36 Rehobeth	31 Pierre Menard
47 Sable Night	36 Swan Ballet	30 Blue Sapphire
46 Beechleaf	35 Allegiance	30 May Hall
46 Frost 'n Flame	34 Limelight	30 Tahola
46 Whole Cloth		

It has been whispered around that Captain Gallant (Schmelzer '59) is the best rich, deep red to date. Pretty Carol (Hamblen) a beautiful orchid pink is the iris to look for this year. In New York and the New England states Kenneth Smith's Dr. Bob, a lovely ruffled white, is a favorite. Having proved itself in New England it should perform well in Minn.

Membership Notes

Competition is increasing in our membership contest. Let's all "push" our Society a little harder. Remember, the contest closes July 31 this year, so we will have to work faster!

Adah Anderson has one new member to date: Mrs. Kessenick, 250 Interlachen Rd, Hopkins. Gus Sindt has one: Mrs. Jesse Peacock, Alexandria, Minn.

Mrs. Lavacot's new member is Mrs. George Baltz, 777 Winslow, St. Paul 7.

I am one member closer to that "Butterscotch Kiss" — Mrs. Marie Illig, 3125 Winnetka Ave. No., is joining us.

We hope every member brings a friend to hear Mr. Orville Fay.

... Mary Haertzen

Random Observations on Mums — Fall, 1961, Mrs. O. A. Bakke.

Of the new varieties of mums we grew last spring we found Wayzata to be very good in every way. Twink & Flame were too late this year. Fired Gold was very early and a favorite of everyone. Brownie, which you saw at one of the meetings was very choice, low, lots of bloom, showy and stood up in all weather. August Queen had nice, large, early bloom on long stems, but the stems were weak.

In order to test reports of X-Ray causing mutations and other changes in plants, we X-Rayed 12 mums early in the spring — but there was no effect on them. Cortis Rice, X-Rayed 12 seconds, opened up with a yellow center, daisy like which may have been

caused by it's blooming late. We will slip it in '62 to see if it is the same. What does X-Ray do? That's what we'd like to find out. Give them a big dose so it really affects the plant, do the same with iris seeds. X-Ray each day for several successive days may be the answer. Since the U has nothing written on the subject, we might venture out on our own.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW with a star for Thursday, February 22 — Twin City Iris Society presents Mr. Orville Fay. See you there!!
