

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. X, No. 1

January, 1962

Another Holiday Season has come and passed and we hope all of you had a wonderful, happy time. The Christmas Party, which was the last meeting of the Twin City Iris Society, was a huge success. Many of the charter members who had been unable to attend for a time were present and it was wonderful renewing old friendships. Ten years as a society have passed and now we start on the next decade. I think a wonderful New Year's Resolution for each Iris Society member would be, "I will do everything in my power to make the year 1962 a banner year for the Twin City Iris Society, by getting new members, interesting others in growing iris, attending meetings and giving of my talents wherever I can."

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 25, 1962, at the regular meeting place, the Minneapolis YWCA at 12th & Nicollet — Time: 8:00 P.M. Let's start out 1962 with a bang and every one turn out. Great things are in store for the February meeting so right now plan to attend this one, too — I'll let the program chairman tell you about it:

When I took over the job of program chairman, I realized it would be difficult to follow last year's chairman without a let down in the quality of programs, so I immediately decided to ask the entire society for help. First Mrs. Bakke called a representative cross section of the members, asking them what they would like as programs during 1962 and also what they would not like. With this as a background, a committee of four spent several hours one Sunday, tossing ideas back and forth, and finally arrived at a tentative list of possibilities. My own fondest hope was to have Mr. Orville Fay, world famous hybridizer, speak at one of our meetings. I hardly dared suggest it, but I found the others on the committee shared my enthusiasm. We asked Alice Stenoien to write to him and his reply is printed elsewhere in this paper. I am delighted to tell you that he will speak to us at the regular meeting in February. Be sure to save the date!

We have a different but equally interesting program scheduled for this month. Our own Virginia Messer, whom we all love for her bubbling spontaneity, will show slides and give us information on other than tall bearded irises, including dwarfs, intermediates, oncobreds, etc. After giving the background of each type, she will lead us in an open discussion. This I am sure will be a very informative program. Never let it be said that your familiarity with irises ends with the T.B.s. Come to the meeting and become convinced that the Iris is a fascinating flower in all its various forms.

If you like the programs this year, please tell us and if you don't like them, we would like to hear that, too. These comments can help next year's chairman. We know we can't please all the members all the time, but we hope to please all the members some of the time!

... May Belle Wright

We thought you might like to read Mr. Fay's acceptance letter to see what a warm, gracious person he is:

December 11, 1961

Dear Mrs. Stenoien:

Thank you for your letter of December 7th, 1961. I will be most happy to accept your invitation to speak to the Twin City Iris Society on either the third or fourth Thursday during February. The day of your choosing will be satisfactory with me.

There will be no fee for my appearance. I will bring my own projector and slides. I am sure the iris society can furnish a screen.

I well remember the wonderful time I had as a guest in your home seven or eight years ago. I will be pleased to accept your most gracious invitation to be an overnight guest in your home. I will be so glad to meet your husband.

I will come by train as it is the most reliable transportation at this time of year. The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific R.R. runs through Northbrook. I probably will take a night train and arrive in the morning.

Many things have happened since I saw you last. I have received the hybridizers medal from the A.I.S., two Dykes medals, and the Foster Memorial Medal from the English Iris Society. Thirteen of my iris are on the list of 100 most popular iris in 1961. Bob Schreiner is second with 12. Two years ago I flew to England in April and had a wonderful time, as I was a guest of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Randall for eleven days.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,
Orville Fay

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This year I intend to provide our editor with a president's letter for each issue of the News & Views. I have two objectives in mind (aside from the obvious one that I'm rather long-winded and I like to write.) For one thing, the editor assures me that with the exception of the program notes, she seldom receives anything in the way of literary contributions from our membership, so she winds up having to write the whole thing herself. For another thing, if I absolutely insist on having something to say, I can say it here and save more time for the program at our meetings, a purpose which I'm sure everyone will applaud.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST: I announced at our Christmas party that one of my objectives for this year will be a big increase in membership, so we're going to have a contest with a Butterscotch Kiss as the prize. (For the uninitiated, a Butterscotch Kiss is an iris. I seriously doubt whether anyone would be interested in winning if it were otherwise.) When we have a contest, we ought to have some rules, so here they are:

1. This will be a free-for-all, open to every member including the other officers, the committee chairmen, & everybody else except Mr. & Mrs. President.

2. The minimum number of new members required to qualify the winner will be three. (I would hate to have to pay off on one!)
3. A family membership will count as two.
4. The membership chairman will keep score. In case of doubt, the new member will designate who is his sponsor. The credit may be split if necessary to insure fairness.
5. The contest will close July 31 and the payoff will be made at the auction in August to permit the winner to get his prize planted this year.
6. In case of a tie - darned if I know! I sort of hope I won't have to cough up two Butterscotch Kisses, although it might be worth it if the results are good enough.

A Peek Into the Future: This is going to be an interesting year. We held a joint meeting of the old and new officers & directors in December, & I have talked with many of the other members. The enthusiasm that everyone seems to have is certainly gratifying. As the year goes along you'll be hearing a lot about some new projects, and you'll also hear some new emphasis on old projects.

There seems to be a feeling that our new members haven't been getting enough attention. If this is true, it certainly is a grave and deplorable situation, and one that is going to be corrected. This year we will place special emphasis on welcoming our new folks & assimilating them into the inner circle as promptly as possible. We will also have a brief session at each meeting, slanted in the direction of beginners, on the subject of "what should we be doing right now?"

We will be exploring the possibilities of a library & a test garden. We are going to work on a slide collection, with a contest for the best slides. Our constitution, after 10 yrs. of faithful service, appears to be in need of some overhauling. Our show rules are going to get a long, hard look with a view toward more fairness & equity for all exhibitors. Our hybridizing program, which got off the ground so well last yr. is going to continue to receive a large measure of attention. Does all of this sound like fun? It will be.

Minnesota's Place on the Iris Map: Have you by any chance been laboring under the delusion that certain other sections of the country are outshining us on the iris map? The other night, while eating peanuts and browsing through the October Bulletin of the American Iris Society, I got to studying the report on 1961 iris shows. Out of 113 shows across the length and breadth of the country which received the official A.I.S. awards, our show ranked fifth in size with 689 exhibits! In our preoccupation with inferiority complexes about our severe climate and the need for adequate winter protection, I'll bet that a lot of us have never realized what a big noise we are in the iris world. And I'll further bet that with the programs we have on the fire right now, we're going to get bigger before we get smaller. There is one thing we do need, however, to make our voice properly heard, and that is more local memberships in the A.I.S.

Yours for an early spring,

G. F. Hanson, President

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

JAN., 1962

We are starting a bright New Year. With the concerted effort of each member, we can make this Society the largest, and best known unit in the States.

With the incentive President Hanson is offering, we can't lose. Where else can one get a Butterscotch Kiss from such a nice, young man? And it's the married women (hope their husbands don't find out) who are most excited. What chance have the single gals???

MEMBERSHIP NOTES, cont'd

We'll just have to work harder.

Some of our members have slipped up on dues; they are due as of January 1. We are anxious that each member be included in the yearbook.

Alice Bakke won the last membership contest. The reward was a White Parasol Iris which lists at nine dollars.

Mary Haertzen

I would like to add to the note above regarding the dues. I would like to remind all of you who have not as yet paid your dues to come to the meeting prepared to pay them or send them immediately to the treasurer:

Mr. G. B. Gable
2543 38th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, Minn.

I realize how easy it is to slip up on this so now, while you are thinking of it, why don't you send them? Mix-ups, missed issues of News & Views, etc. can be kept to a minimum if each will pay his dues now. The rate is:

Single Membership with Minnesota Horticulture...\$2.50
 (if you already receive "the Hort" 1.00
Family Membership with Minnesota Horticulture...3.00
 (if you already receive "the Hort"..... 1.50

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1962 - AT THE Y.W.C.A. !!!