

Twin City Iris Society

-News and Views-

Vol. XI, No. 1

January, 1963

Even with the temperature below zero and the winds whistling around the eaves, now is the time to do the planning for next summer's activities, garden-wise. Now, we can pore over the catalogues, read up on hybridizing, study and plan. The first meeting of the Iris Society for the year 1963 is approaching and it promises to be most interesting to everyone.

It will be held at our regular meeting place, The Y.W.C.A., Twelfth & Nicollet, Minneapolis, Thursday, January 24, at 8:00 P.M. Let Alice Stenoien, your new Program Chairman, tell you about it:

As your new program chairman, I am vitally concerned in trying to secure program material and speakers that will give us a well rounded, educational and interesting series of meetings. I have been very fortunate, in that Pat Wysocky and Virginia Messer have consented to work with me and I am happy to have their capable & experienced advice and help. We hope to have the complete year's program ready for entry in the year book.

As a kick off for the year 1963, we are happy to have as our speaker, Carl Halst, one of our honorary members. Carl is well and affectionately known to most of our members. Probably most will remember him as the gardener in charge of our Municipal Rose Gardens at Lake Harriet for many years. The last six or seven years he has been Supervisor of Horticulture for the City of Minneapolis. He is a consulting Rosarian and judge of All American Rose selections.

His work in every phase of gardening will bring to us the benefits of his vast experience. He will talk on the new mulches & what's new in garden techniques, and he will also invite questions on garden problems.

We are reviving the old custom of door prizes. Anyone wishing to donate a prize is most welcome to do so!

As we are all gardeners, not only of Iris, but other flowers as well, let us make January a "learning month" and turn out 100% for this first meeting of '63.

. . . Alice Foss Stenoien

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"If winter comes can spring be far behind?" I suppose I am admitting to a shocking degree of ignorance when I say that I have no idea where that somewhat overworked query comes from or who originated it, but it certainly expresses the hope that springs eternal in the hearts of gardeners. As this is written we appear to be heading out of the balmy weather that graced the first few days of 1963 and into a typical Minnesota major cold snap. But still the occasion for the writing is the beginning of another season of Iris Society activity that will reach its high point in another wealth of beautiful flowers four or five months hence, and then taper off into another period of dormancy and another plaintive query, "If winter comes etc. etc."

So here we are with a new calendar, a new collection of seed and nursery catalogs, a new wave of optimism about what we are going to do with our gardens next spring, and a whole new series of plans for our society's activities during 1963. I hadn't even finished drying my eyes after Wisconsin's tragedy in the Rose Bowl when my telephone began to jingle again, and it looks as if our folks are eager for another year of the

President's Letter - cont'd

same kind of gratifying activity that marked 1962. So grab a seat in the front row and hold on to your hats — here we go again!

MEETING DATES: Recently our phoning committee contacted as many of our members as possible with regard to a proposed change in meeting dates. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of it, so we will be meeting on the third Thursday of the month instead of the fourth. NOT THIS MONTH, THOUGH! The change becomes effective in February.

NEW OFFICERS: Some of our folks may not have a list of the officers elected for 1963 at our annual meeting last October. Here they are:

President:	(Ho hum; yes, he's back again.)	Directors:	Mr. G. B. Gable
1st V.Pres:	Mr. E. H. Maffett		Mr. W. G. Sindt
2nd V.Pres:	Mr. C. Sacco		Mr. Cecil Anderson
Treasurer:	Mr. Milton Dale		Rev. Paul Folkers
Secretary:	Mrs. Joyce Meyer		Mrs. D. C. Messer
Corres. Secy:	Mrs. Milton Dale		Mrs. O. A. Bakke

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: At our last meeting in November I expressed great concern over a few remaining vacancies in important committee jobs, including the vital show committee spot. I finally began to breathe again when Mrs. J. K. LaCroix agreed to fill this essential chairmanship. When she did so, however, I extended my neck quite a distance & volunteered the assistance of our entire membership, because the job of putting on our show is anything but a one man (or one woman) task. I would hate to have to make good on my guarantees by personally doing all the jobs of a hundred or so members, so please — when she calls you for help on one of the numerous sub-committees, come to my rescue! All of the other committee chairman appointments have also been made. Here they are:

Program:	Mrs. S. Stenoien	Librarian:	Mr. Walter Carlock
Membership:	Mrs. S. C. Rudser	Historian:	Mrs. J. F. Lavacot
Auction:	Mr. Urban Ipsen	Editor, News	
Social:	Mrs. Steve Boguta	and Views:	Mrs. D. C. Messer
Publicity:	Mr. L. N. Solberg	Editor,	
Hybridizing:	Mrs. Tom D. Wright	Yearbook:	Mrs. Mary L. Haertzen
Test Garden:	Mr. S. C. Rudser	Phoning:	Mrs. O. A. Bakke
			Miss Adah Anderson
			Mrs. Ethel Smith

IMPORTANT REMINDER: By action of your Board of Directors, the January meeting is the deadline for inclusion of the names of members in our 1963 yearbook. If your dues are paid by that time you will automatically be included. If it is not convenient for you to pay your dues right now you can still be included. Just notify our yearbook editor, Mrs. Mary Haertzen of your intention to renew your membership and she will include your name. Her telephone number is JA.1-4497. Her address is 1109 33rd Ave. No., Minneapolis 12. Please don't forget because we don't want anyone omitted.

. . . G. F. Hanson, President

VARIETAL COMMENT — Mr. G. B. Gable

I have been asked to comment on some of the newer varieties of iris for News & Views, so I will mention only those varieties that are outstanding as to color, size & performance.

ANYTIME was not a pure white but it fascinated me with its substance and the wide, wide standards and falls and its strong stalk. The flowers took the sun for two or three days without folding, getting whiter each day. One of the largest iris in the garden.

Varietal Comment - cont'd

CAPTAIN GALLANT gets my vote for the best red to date but Victor Hardkopf's seedling, RED CHIEFTAIN X CALDRON, may have it beat if not branched too high. I am waiting to make a comparison this year. THE MAD HATTER and BANG are two other so-called reds that have lots of size & height to go with good performance.

CELESTIAL SNOW, to my way of thinking, is the finest pure white in my garden. I like its ruffling. It has everything. Bro. Charles has produced some of our best iris - CELESTIAL BLUE, ORCHID JEWELL, MISSION ROSE, CELESTIAL GLORY and others. You will hear a lot about CELESTIAL GLORY, a very large orange-apricot with a fiery red beard. MISSION ROSE is very similar to MARY RANDALL but in my garden it is larger & produces more flowers than MARY RANDALL.

The performance of some irises may be so poor the first year that we may wonder why they were introduced. MELODRAMA, TOAST 'N HONEY, VALIMAR and GLITTERING AMBER came to my mind and I am sure there are many more. I thought I could never like an iris with open standards until last year after a rain when GLITTERING AMBER stood up like a soldier. With its open standards it was a massive flower with carrying power that could be spotted from a distance. VALIMAR with its large flower had that rich, golden apricot tint on pink that I am unable to describe. MELODRAMA and TOAST 'N HONEY came thru like pictured in color catalogs.

BROADWAY STAR, KING'S CHOICE, ROSE GARLAND, FULL REWARD and VIOLET HARMONY are easy growers and produce giant flowers.

CASHMERE with its red beard and large ruffled rose flowers was outstanding.

LOVELY LETTY, a bright violet, was another with a fiery red beard.

RIPPLING WATERS is a very lacy blend of blue, orchid and cream with a tangerine beard. So many of the new varieties have this red or tangerine beard that I presume MARY RANDALL has been used a lot by the hybridizers. If an iris doesn't have a red beard or lace or ruffles or flaring falls it really has to be good to get attention.

ORIENTAL PEARL is my choice of all the pinks and there are many good ones. SWEET-HEART and LYNN HALL for near true color, also PINK CONFECTION. SPRING FESTIVAL, FLEETA, SPRING CHARM, VALIMAR and JUNE MEREDETH are others with loads of quality.

So many good yellows to choose from that it is difficult to make a choice. Last year SUNNYDALE drew my attention. The year before it was TECHNICAL CHIMES. With GOLDEN GARLAND, GARDEN GOLD, CHINESE LANTERN, WAXING MOON, GOLDEN HAWK and CELESTIAL SUNLIGHT, anyone could be a winner.

I believe that BLUE POWDER has more ruffles than any other blue but the flowers bloom too close to the stalk. GALILEE was the most perfect ruffled light blue and it was in competition with such beauties as SPRING VALLEY, LADY ROGERS, LADY ILSE, BLUE SAPPHIRE, ELEANOR'S PRIDE and SEAMASTER.

Last year CONCORD RIVER and IRISH EYES were one year plants, but they really had the color.

Last year so many of the blacks were below par that BLACK HILLS out-performed the entire lot. DARK BOATMAN for the first time put on a good show. BLACK SWAN was the most outstanding and BLACK ONYX on one year plants was really pretty.

ALLEGIANCE, a very dark blue, repeated as an outstanding performer for the second year in my garden. The flowers last for days and it bloomed over such a long period. I like its strong stalk. It really deserves twelfth place in the 100 best.

Varietal Comments - cont'd

Space will not permit comment on all the new and outstanding varieties. KNIGHTHOOD, DEMETRIA, EDENITE, FLAME KISS, PRETTY CAROL, POET'S DREAM, IRMA MEL-ROSE, ROSY VEIL, CHINQUAPIN, DOTTED SWISS, ORANGE BANNER, APRICOT DANCER, PRETTY GAY, PATIENCE, VIOLET HAVEN, OYSTER PEARL, THE CITADEL, PATRICIAN, FROST AND FLAME and a host of others performed beautifully and are all excellent varieties. With 57 new varieties to look forward to this year, it should be an exciting bloom season.

JUST A LAST REMINDER that your 1963 dues are due and payable now. Bring to the next meeting, if you have not already taken care of this, or send to the new treasurer:

Mr. Milton Dale
8808 N. Lexington
New Brighton 12, Minnesota

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING — JANUARY 24 — Y.W.C.A. — 8:00 P.M. !! —