

# Twin City Iris Society

## NEWS & VIEWS

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Vacation is over, this morning the children went back to school and immediately thoughts turn to the rush of activities always beginning in September. This summer has been one of the coolest and dampest that I can remember, but the flowers, most of them, seemed to love it and have bloomed superbly. As usual, all things hoped for were not accomplished but there is always another year. As a hybridizer--the crop of seed pods was outstanding and while many of the most interesting and most promising crosses failed to produce--many were successful, keeping anticipation and hopes high. I had two huge seed pods that produced 82 large seeds apiece. As one of these was a cross between Pacific Panorama and Allegiance some beautiful blues should result.

Along with the coming of fall our Twin City Iris Society resumes its regular meeting schedule. The first meeting will be September 16, 1965, 8:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place, Guaranty State Bank of Robbinsdale, 3700 West Broadway. It is always so nice after a busy summer to renew old friendships and to make new ones at the resumption of the meetings of our fine society.

The program will be an outstanding one: Mr. Robert Schwietz, the Como Park Conservatory supervisor, will be our speaker. All of those who have enjoyed the outstanding floral displays and horticultural exhibits of this St. Paul show place will be anxious to hear the man most responsible. Those who haven't been to the conservatory will probably be inspired to visit it when they know of the treat in store for them.

The conservatory has been referred to as Minnesota's Taj Mahal. Many who attended the flower shows and tours in Chicago remarked that the conservatory here far surpasses any showing they have seen there.

Let's make this meeting an outstanding success by having a record number of members present!! See you then!!

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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This has been a busy season, digging and resetting iris, planting new varieties, rearranging perennials in the border garden, visiting gardens at the height of the blooming season and attending or viewing the beautiful flower shows that were put on by various garden clubs. The work and effort put forth by these clubs certainly gives one a new outlook on the future of our own Society. The success of any garden club or society is directly proportionate to the co-operation and support it receives from its members.

It is time we look ahead for tomorrow. Yesterday had its day. Today is a new beginning. Make it your best and tomorrow even better. What this society did way back when is past. Today we are moving forward and there is no room for pessimism. One step at a time forward, is progress. There have been many changes in the Society, the last two years, more will come in the future, new ideas and enthusiasm will make our organization stronger and programs more interesting.

The iris flower has gone through many changes. The small drab flower of yesterday has become one of outstanding beauty, a flower we proudly acclaim. Changes continue in this flower and hybridizers are striving for a longer blooming period. More buds in a socket and a flower with substance that will stand conditions of sun and heat for a longer period of time. What is beauty today, a few years from now will receive only a second glance.

The Medians are coming to the front. They start the season early and before you realize it, the tall bearded take over! The Medians are not standing still. More and more are being listed. Even though in the pioneer stage, they are proving popular in all areas.

The auction was a huge success. Before the final day, rumors were heard that the market was saturated and there would not be any great demand for iris. This proved false. A stormy night, torrents of rain fell, but buyers came. All obstacles were overcome. Through it all, the sale was the largest in the history of the Society.

Changes will continue. Progress cannot be stopped. Accept new ideas, think new ideas and work with new ideas. Reserve the eve of September 16, for it is the date of our first fall meeting. It will be an informative one.

See you at 8:00 p.m.

Greta M. Kessenich, President



P.S. It is not too early in the season to think about the winter care of iris. The Iris does need winter protection by covering with leaves, marsh hay, or straw, etc. Should we have an open winter without much snow, there will be losses. A little work this fall, taking care of the iris, will bring smiles and happiness next April.

G. M. K.

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#### KEEPING UP WITH THE PARADE by G. B. Gable

The Symposium of the one hundred favorite iris varieties was started in 1940. Each member of the American Iris Society could vote for 100 named varieties. In recent years the votes have been limited to 25 varieties but the 100 varieties getting the most votes are listed in the Official Symposium. This list was originally referred to as "the 100 best" and the older members of the society still refer to the symposium as the 100 best although we understand that the 100 favorite iris would be nearer correct.

In the early years of the symposium the fickleness of the members who voted was such that a variety could get the Award of Merit and a place in the 100 best and two or three years pass into oblivion. Rameses was the only variety to receive the Dykes Medal without first receiving the Award of Merit and it received the Dykes the same year it was voted the Honorable Mention Award. Then it remained in the 100 best only two years. Lilac Lane after getting the A.M. remained only one year while Vatican Purple remained on the list ten years and never received the Award of Merit. The severest blow to any variety was handed to Violet Symphony, a perfectly branched blue ribbon winner for me. In five years it advanced from 71st position to 12th, only to be kicked into oblivion the following year.

In the five years since 1959 only 41 varieties remain on the list. However, only three of the first 25 lost out. In the ten years since 1954 only 17 remain on the list and 1954 was the first year for Black Hills, Inca Chief, Limelight, Palomino, and Violet Harmony. Wabash is the only variety remaining the entire 25 years and will probably lose out this year. Snow Flurry survived 24 years.

The Symposium of the American Hemerocallis Society is worse. It would keep a person broke trying to keep the 100 favorite daylilies. In the five years since 1959, only 36 remain on the list and only seven of the first ten remain.

These statistics should give encouragement to our hybridizers for it is proof that there will always be a place in the 100 best for top quality introductions.

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The Twin City Iris Society has donated the following iris rhizomes for beautification projects this 1965 planting season.

200 iris rhizomes to the Bloomington Affiliated Garden Club.  
Planted in the perennial garden at their City Hall.

150 rhizomes to the Hopkins beautification project.

125 rhizomes to the Lyndale Gardens.  
Planted between the two fountains along the walks.

100 rhizomes to the Berry Town Service Unit - Girl Scout troop of Hopkins.

25 rhizomes to the Richfield affiliated Garden Club.

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The Dykes Medal for 1965

Pacific Panorama - originator Neva Sexton

Runners Up

Rippling Waters	- Orville Fay
Henry Shaw	- Clifford W. Benson
Orange Parade	- Melba Hamblen
Fluted Haven	- Serlena Reynolds

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For Information (Should you care to use it)

The iris Shah Jehan was named after of for the architect Shah Jehan, the famed builder of the Taj Mahal in India. One of the most beautiful structures ever erected.

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My gift at the Iris Society Christmas party 1964 was Paradise Gold--a gladiolus corm. It is new--a Paradise cross, 7 inch flower, very light yellow. I got 4 large bloom stalks from 1 corm. It lasts longer in the house than any glad I grow and is my most beautiful glad. Mrs. O. A. Bakke