

# Twin City Iris Society

## NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. XIII, No. 9

Minneapolis, Minnesota

November, 1965

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

### NOTICE

1966 TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY MEETING

JANUARY 5, 1966 8:00 P.M.

Guaranty State Bank - 3700 West Broadway

Mr. Tell Muhlestein, Provo, Utah, nationally known irisarian will be our guest and will speak to the Society on January 5, 1966 at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Muhlestein is one of the foremost hybridizers in the United States and is originator of many of our beautiful irises. He is also a large commercial grower of iris and Hemerocallis.

Reservation and date have been set. MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!!  
A large attendance is expected.

Greta M. Kessenich  
President

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

First, take a good look at the notice above, note the date and plan now to attend. This meeting will be in lieu of our regular January meeting but Mr. Muhlestein was to be in town that week so it necessitated the earlier date. January 5 is on a Wednesday.

As usual, our November meeting will be a harbinger of the holiday season. The date, Thursday, November 18, 1965, time 8:00 p.m.; place Guaranty State Bank; purpose short business meeting, fun, frolic, and a preview of holiday goodies.

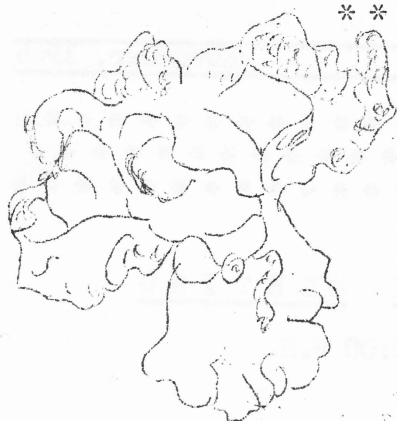
Each woman attending is asked to bring some of her favorite holiday goodies, cookies, fancy breads, or any other type of holiday specialty. In past years this has been a tremendous success and the sampling and fellowship has been one of the highlights of the year. There are no better cooks than those belonging to the Twin City Iris Society. If you haven't been inspired by the holiday feeling before that time, just the sight of the table crammed with so many delightful goodies is guaranteed to send you home with the Christmas spirit singing in your heart.

There will also be a visit from Santa Claus and each person is asked to bring a small gift (50¢ - 75¢ not over \$1.00) wrap your gift and if it is specifically for a man or a woman so identify it on the package. This is for gift exchange. A garden type gift, is a wise choice, since we are all gardeners. (over)

This is the year's "fun meeting" so we hope everyone will attend and partake of the frivolity, the food and the fellowship. It is a wonderful way to become better acquainted with your fellow society members---so let's have a record turnout! !

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Flared and Ruffled Falls  
and Standards

With this issue of the News and Views the 1965 iris year is ending and we are already looking forward, with enthusiasm to 1966. The year past has been one of challenge, but also one of achievement in our gardens. One of extra care of the iris, but one of enjoyment. One of new experiences in weather conditions but one of knowing under all factors, the iris thrives, grows, increases and blooms.

Much progress has been made this year in the Society in many avenues, you have had an exceptionally busy and active Board of Directors. They have acted in the best interest of the Society.



Conical Standards

The Iris Society has been asked by the Peony Society for some assistance. After much deliberation and thought, your Board of Directors decided to have a class of peonies in the Iris show schedule. Also, to have a peony and late iris show at the time of our June meeting. The peony will be featured in some of our programs.

There are a number of reasons why your Board felt that the Society should move in this direction.

First and foremost, the peony, a beautiful flower should be brought forward to the public and a speciality Society, so prominent in days past should not drop from the floriculture circles in Minnesota. The Iris Society is a friend to all other Societies. By working together, we all prosper and go forward by helping another, does not take anything from us, but adds more than can be enumerated here.

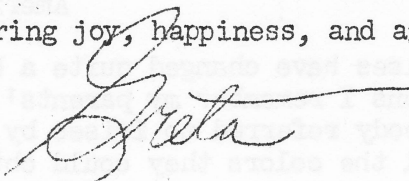
I would like to make it perfectly clear that the interest of a large majority of the membership of the Society is in the tall bearded iris. This, no doubt, will always be the case, as it should be. There are also some members that have added interest in other areas and should be given the opportunity to develop that interest. The Society will become stronger as its outlook becomes broader. Not only should we not stop with the showing of the tall bearded iris and peonies, but let us remember we have many other phases of iris culture that need immediate attention,--The Medians---. They are receiving much overdue attention now. This Society must keep abreast with the times and trend. Many Societies, in other areas have shows of only the medians. Hybridizers are busy bringing new and beautiful creations to the iris world.

Let us make plans to start with a small show. Cultivate what we have and display them at our May meeting. This always stimulates interest. The Median Society has listed the first twenty-five of the standard dwarf bearded, intermediate bearded, border bearded and ten of the miniature tall bearded in the October issue of the American Iris Society bulletin.

I am hopeful that 1966 will be a year of constructive and educational programs, featuring, the medians, the tall bearded the exotic and glamorous oncobreds, the peony and the popular nonbearded irises. What more could we ask!?

A very Merry Christmas to you and may the New Year bring joy, happiness, and an abundance of blue ribbon iris to you all.

Greta M. Kessenich  
President



\*\*\*\*\*

FRIENDS AND FLOWERS  
by Hazle B. Sweeney

"Whoever makes a garden  
Has, oh, so many friends!  
The glory of the morning  
The dew when daylight ends.  
The wind, the rain, and sunshine  
The dew, and fertile sod,  
And he who makes a garden  
Works hand-in-hand with God."

Douglas Malloch

When we think of the flowers that bloom in our gardens, we instinctively think of all the friends we have made through our common love for flowers.

Most of us started out with a small garden and a variety of plants; probably iris, peonies, day lilies, petunias, asters and a rose or two. As we learned more about the habits and performance of these flowers, either through garden clubs, garden visits, magazines or just through our own personal experience, we expanded our gardens to include more varieties. Some of us singled out one class of flowers--maybe dahlia, iris, gladiolus or some other flower.

But whether we chose to specialize in one class, or to grow a variety of flowers, we found our circle of friends increasing even as our gardens increased. We found too that Flowers, like Friends, thrived throughout the years, but given a little TLC (Tender, Loving Care) they were even more rewarding!

How lucky we were to have iris societies, gladiolus societies, dahlia societies, rose societies and many other groups in our immediate area who welcomed memberships and encouraged exchange of ideas. What a joy it was to belong to one or more of these groups of flower lovers and share each others knowledge and experience. Just as a variety of flowers can grow side by side in the garden, with no discord, so too, in this wonderful free country of ours, organizations can work side by side in their efforts to create something beautiful. Through these joint efforts, lasting friendships develop and flourish.

\*\*\*\*\*

DID YOU KNOW?

The Twin City Iris Show lacked only six bloom stalks from being the number one show in the United States. 837 enteries were displayed

15,000 spectators viewed the show

The Modesto, California show exhibited 842 enteries with 4,000 spectators viewed the show.

(over)



## IRISES, IRISARIANS, AND THE AIS

By G. F. Hanson, Regional Vice President  
American Iris Society, Region 8

Irises have changed quite a bit during my lifetime. Among my earliest recollections I remember my parents' gardening activities, including their iris border. Nobody referred to irises by name in those days, just by color; and my folks had all the colors they could obtain--about four of them. They were all small flowered and generally unimpressive, and they all bloomed at once for about a week before giving up in despair for another year. Today things are different. Right now we have about 750 varieties in the gardens at our place, and during the summer we threw out over 100 others to make room for newer and better things. But the poorest of the varieties that landed in our compost heap was immeasurably better than the very best of those old timers that grew in my parents' iris border. And perhaps even more impressive is the fact that every one of our present 750 varieties, plus the 100 that we threw out, has its own assigned name. That name designates that one specific iris, whether it is growing in our gardens or anywhere else from Maine to California.

Things like these don't just happen. The national organization largely responsible for the spectacular development of the iris, and entirely responsible for the system of names that keeps order among the thousands of registered varieties, is the American Iris Society. Every gardener who grows a clump of modern irises benefits from its activities, whether he is a member or not. Aside from such obvious benefits as its excellent publications and its annual symposium of favorite varieties, the AIS maintains test gardens under various climatic conditions, and it sponsors continuing research into cultural, pest and disease problems. It trains and appoints judges who are qualified to evaluate irises both in growth and in exhibition, and it establishes uniform standards for the guidance of its judges, in whatever part of the country they may be functioning.

The continental United States is divided into 24 geographical regions, of which Region 8 includes Minnesota and Wisconsin. Each region has a Regional Vice President, and in addition most regions are now organized within themselves along the lines of the national pattern, with their own committees, activities, and publications. Here in Region 8 we have two strong state groups, the Wisconsin Iris Society and the Twin City Iris Society, but we do not have any regional organization.

Obviously the life blood that permits the AIS to carry on its work is its roster of members. The AIS needs members, and the members individually and collectively need the work of the AIS. In Region 8, in a very special way and for very special reasons, we need a large increase in AIS membership. Within recent years our interest and "know how" in iris culture have improved tremendously, as evidenced by the high national ranking of our shows. But unfortunately our representation in the AIS has not kept pace. Our cultural problems of severe winters and shortened growing seasons are not shared by most of the other regions, and we find that our requirements are being ignored by many of the prominent hybridizers. Too often we find that new introductions receive high praise nationally, but refuse to perform in our climate, and unhappily the only way to find out which is which is by a costly process of trial and error. Perhaps it is too much to say that an iris worthy of a high award should be able to withstand a Minnesota winter, but it is not too much to say that if it has a tendency to be tender, that weakness should be common knowledge.

We need a bigger, louder voice at the national level if our interests are to be protected and promoted. We need to let the rest of the iris growing world know



how far we have come. We need more communication at the regional level between our two state groups. We need to instill a healthy respect for the potentials of this area into the minds of the prominent hybridizers, so that more attention will be paid to the quality of hardiness. We need more accredited garden judges to make their voices heard in the balloting for the Award of Merit, Dykes Medal, and the other awards of the AIS, and we have several trained and qualified iris-arians who are deserving of appointment to garden judge status. But unfortunately garden judges are limited to a percentage of the regional membership, and we are already two judges over our quota.

Our purposes can only be served when our membership roster is on a par with the other regions. To those who are already members, I invite your cooperation in spreading the AIS gospel. To those who are not members, I invite you in all sincerity to consider joining us. Region 8 deserves a better place in the sun.

\* \* \* \* \*

KNOW YOUR IRIS  
Greta Kessenich

The vocabulary used in speaking of iris, especially among beginners may be strange, but one becomes familiar with the terms as the appreciation increases for this beautiful flower.

The fleshy root of the iris is called a rhizome and it is simple to remember that the standards of the iris are the three petals that stand erect. The falls are the three petals that hang down or fall. The crest means the tips of the style branches in the center of the flower, these carry the stigmatic lip which receives the pollen. The haft or shoulder is the area across the falls near the center of the flower. On the haft, one often sees pencil mark lines or markings, called reticulations which hybridizers have been trying to eliminate. In present day judging of an iris, the haft must be broad to get any kind of a rating.

A seedling is a baby plant grown from seed. Hybridizers cross two well-chosen and distinct iris that give promise of producing the desired progeny. The seeds are planted in the fall. The plant grows to maturity in a year or two and blooms. Then for the first time the result of the crosses are seen. When the flower meets the standards of the hybridizer, perhaps, in the furthering development of some phase, he will introduce it as a named variety. He does not only consider color and beauty of the flower.

To a hybridizer, a dog has no connection with the canine world. It refers to an undesirable seedling, that is to be discarded. Dog eared, another canine phrase, in iris language means the falls droop or are floppy, incurved, recurved or probably pinched at the haft. By present day standards these specimens wind up on the compost heap. Now, the falls must flare, resembling the skirts of a skater. If the plant is tall the falls should hang down somewhat. A good tailored flower is alright. Some flowers are ruffled and wavy, some have fluted crinkled or lacy edges.

The beard of the iris resembles a fuzzy caterpillar and is found at the center of the falls. At present, hybridizers are working for various colored beards for the different colors in iris, so as to bring new charm to this exotic flower. In iris terminology the Signal is a patch of contrasting color at the tip of the beard, vividly showing, in many oncobreds.

Substance, the thickness of the petal. This gives strength to withstand varied weather conditions. Texture, the surface character of the petals, as--smoothness, crepe-like and sheen.

There are a number of classifications in respect to color type. A self is a pure color--as "Eleanor's Pride." Many iris have blazes, thumb-prints and lines affecting what otherwise is a solid color. An amoena, standards and falls different colors--white standards, falls colored, as "Whole Cloth." Blend, combinations of two or more colors as "Cordolon," "Gracie Pfost." Plicata, stippled color on light ground, as "Belle Meade," "Dotted Swiss." Fancy a riot or mixture of several colors as Thompkins' "Madame Butterfly." There are bi-colors and bi-tones. Bi--meaning two. Melodrama, truly yours and Mystic Melody would be in one of these two classes.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### CAN YOU FIND A NEW MEMBER OR TWO?

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society's supplementary support from state appropriated funds again has been reduced. We must become even more self-sufficient. The possible budget deficiency this years looks big. But as someone has pointed out, it could be quickly remedied if each member-group were to enroll only two additional members! This solution, if it works, will be a happy one. It will automatically replace the needed funds--and will enlist additional member-workers needed in all parts of the state to help carry out the objectives of the Society.

Minnesota State Horticultural Society

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DID YOU KNOW?

In the October issue of the American Iris Society Bulletin two of the featured pictures of iris, "Cross Country and Sparkling Waters were taken by Millie Stover while in Memphis Tennessee at the Convention.

\*\*\*\*\*

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Since this is the last meeting of the year, we ask that you pay your dues at this time for the coming year. Dues paid now, enables us to compile the data so the 1966 year book will be in your hands at the usual time.

#### DUES NOTICE

Please return this notice with your remittance.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

_____ Twin City Iris Society . . . . .	\$3.50
(With Minnesota State Horticultural Society subscription)	
_____ Family membership as above . . . . .	4.00
_____ Twin City Iris Society . . . . .	1.50
(If you receive "The Hort" through another Society)	
_____ Family membership as above . . . . .	2.00
_____ American Iris Society Membership . . . . .	5.00 yearly
	3 years 12.50
_____ Commercial Growers (State your name and list flowers available)	
Mail remittance to: Mrs. Stanley Rudser, 2548 Douglas Drive,	
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55422	

Or: Bring to November 18th meeting.