

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. XIV No. 8

Minneapolis, Minnesota

November, 1966

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@ ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY @
@ INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS @
@ November 17, 1966 8 P.M. @
@ Guaranty State Bank @
@ 3700 West Broadway @
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Yes, we know, Thanksgiving is not even here yet, but the Twin City Iris Society is having its Annual Christmas Party early, as usual, to avoid that last minute rush of too many parties and too much shopping. All the women are asked to bring a favorite Christmas goodie--cookies or candy--to share with the rest of us. Everyone who comes is asked to bring a wrapped gift to be exchanged. Remember, iris growers like gardening or flower arranging gifts especially, but use your imagination, too. Gifts should be in the 50¢ to 75¢ range, not over \$1.00. Come, help us ring in the Yuletide Season on November 17!

What follows Christmas? The New Year, of course! So we're providing the blank below for you to use in paying your 1967 dues.

DUES NOTICE

Please return this notice with your remittance.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

_____ 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 (1 year) .	5.00
	(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 17th meeting.

Jan. 1976 * * * * *

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi out there,

With a trace of snow in the air we come to our last meeting of 1966 and with it my last as your President. It has been a very rewarding experience, and I wish to thank you all for your wonderful co-operation. I'm sure with our new President and members of the board we should go on to a bigger and better 1967.

Our November meeting is also our Christmas Goodies time, and to get you all in the spirit of Christmas in November Glenn Hanson is bringing his wonderful group to sing for us. I'm sure you all remember how we enjoyed this group the last time, which was much too long ago.

Just a reminder that your 1967 dues are due now, and please don't forget the Hort membership.

Not being a Longfellow or Guest, I'll close with this thought: "One is nearer to God's heart in the garden than anywhere else on earth." God bless and keep you all.

Charlotte Schoene

WHO'S WHO IN T.C.I.S.

MRS. WILLIAM (CHARLOTTE) SCHOENE, our 1966 President, has been a member of T.C.I.S. about five years. During her first year of membership she served as a hostess, taking care of name tags and welcoming people to the meetings. Charlotte works full-time for Minneapolis-Honeywell and has been there sixteen years. Her garden includes about 100 varieties of iris, mums (which she raises and sells), and glads. More recently peonies and lilies have been added to her garden. Charlotte and her husband share a winter hobby as rock hounds--shaping, polishing, and tumbling rocks. Some members of the society have been fortunate enough to receive some of the Schoene rock jewelry as door prizes. During World War II Charlotte served in the WAC Signal Corps in Africa and Italy. Her work and leadership as our President this past year is much appreciated. Thanks, Charlotte, for a good year!

WALTER CARLOCK was recruited for membership by Mr. Gable in 1961 and dragged along his wife (your editor) who was hardly past the "Is that a tulip or an iris?" stage. Walter is presently Treasurer and Historian (note article in this issue) of T.C.I.S. and previously served as Librarian (a natural, since that's his profession) and 2nd Vice President. About 150 varieties of iris grow in our ordinary sized yard, and this includes a small plot where I can cut indiscriminately for flower arrangements. Lack of space prevents Walter from going all out for hybridizing, but he has done some. Other interests include genealogy (ask him how far back he traces his family some time), special displays (from iris exhibits to school carnival spook rooms), and singing in the church choir.

15 YEARS WITH THE T.C.I.S.

"On October 18, 1951, a group of iris enthusiasts met in Minneapolis and with a charter membership of twenty-five persons, formed the Twin City Iris Society. Mr. W. G. Sindt of St. Paul was chosen as the Society's first President.

"The purpose of the Society will be to encourage the culture and popularity of the iris in the Twin City area, through a series of open meetings in which all the

phases of iris culture will be discussed. An annual iris show, comparable to any in the United States, will be sponsored by the Society. Municipal iris plantings for both Minneapolis and St. Paul are planned.

"The Society has established a goal of at least one hundred members for the next year and like Bert Park's jackpot, hopes to grow and grow and grow. The Society will be affiliated with the American Iris Society." so wrote Mr. Nathan Burns, Publicity Chairman for the American Iris Society Bulletin, January 1952.

It seems quite appropriate that at this same time in history Hall's best pink was coming to the nation's attention . . . Happy Birthday! Most births are not without some emotional strains, and the birth of the Twin City Iris Society had its share. The parent "The Minnesota Peony and Iris Society" had been incorporated back in 1930 but when it came of age, 21, the members were more inclined to peony flowers and the iris people felt they were orphans. There were a few years (1949, 1950 and 1951) that would not have had iris shows if Mr. Gable and Mr. Patske had not taken the initiative to find a sponsor. Irritation built up until twenty-five members broke away and the Twin City Iris Society was born in Mr. Burns' home. \$5 was contributed by each member to get the society started.

The first officers: Mr. W. G. Sindt, President; Mr. Edward Straub, 1st Vice President; Mrs. J. S. Taylor, 2nd Vice President; Mrs. Edythe Burn, Recording Secretary; Mr. W. G. Pollock, Corresponding Secretary; Mr. Loren Franklin, Treasurer; Board Members: 1 year terms: Mr. G. B. Gable, Mr. D. W. Foss, Mr. Edward Coffey; 2 year terms: Mr. Jos. Patzke, Mr. Walter Rupp, and Mr. E. H. Moffett.

From the beginning there was a certain determination that the Society would meet its goals. In the October 1952 American Iris Society Bulletin, we find, "In spite of heavy winter loss, the show in Minneapolis was good."--Mrs. Elsie Peterson, RWP Minn. We have had shows comparable with the best in the United States (I can say "we," for although I was not a member then, I did see some of the shows and was beginning in a small way to grow irises).

In the last few years we have become affiliated with the American Iris Society. We have given iris for city plantings. We have nearly 200 members and still hope to grow, and we have open meetings for the purpose of learning about iris culture. Our Society is 15 years old now, grown up and ready for additional goals.

Walter Carlock, Historian

100 YEARS WITH THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Professor W. H. Alderman gave us a bird's eye view of the beginning and development of the State Horticultural Society at our Annual Dinner Meeting in October. Here are some of the highlights of his talk for those who couldn't be there. Professor Alderman has been with the Society about half of the 100 years of its existence.

The Horticultural Society developed in the midst of unrest--the Civil War was just over, and Minnesota had been a state for only 8 years. Most people believed apples couldn't grow in Minnesota. Members of the Society wanted to show Horace Greeley, who said he wouldn't live in Minnesota because you couldn't grow apples there.

Gideon Pond had the first apple tree in Minnesota. He showed 3 small yellow apples at the Hort Fair in Minneapolis in 1855. By 1866 there were 27 varieties in the Rochester exhibit. On October 14, 1866, the Minnesota Fruit Growers Association was organized, and it became the Minnesota State Horticultural Society in 1868. Dr. D. A. Robertson, the first president of the Hort Society, gave about 2,000

volumes of his own library to help the University of Minnesota library get started. The Hort Society and the University of Minnesota grew up together and their history is intertwined.

In 1873 the Hort Society incorporated in order to get an appropriation from the legislature to get information out to the people.

In 1874, Charles Y. Lacey, who was a professor of agriculture, became secretary of the Hort Society and remained in that position until 1880. Peter Gideon's introduction of Wealthy apples swept him into the Horticultural Society. He was a born reformer and was the only man ever barred from finishing his speech, "Fast Horses and Horticulture," at a meeting of the society. It was twelve years before he came to another meeting. He was honored by other state horticulture societies, and finally the Minnesota group apologized to him and made him an honorary member.

The first University of Minnesota fruit experiment station was a farm at Minnetonka, purchased in 1878. It was also the first tax supported experiment station in the United States. In 1888 the plans and program from the University School of Agriculture were publicized for the first time at the Horticultural Society.

By 1891, when Samuel Green became secretary of the Hort Society, there were 200 members. Under his leadership the society lobbied in the legislature for the present fruit breeding farm. Also in 1891 the society established a permanent headquarters with a salaried executive secretary, A. W. Latham, who stayed until 1920, when there were 3,800 members. The monthly journal, Minnesota Horticulturist, was the first in the country, starting in 1894.

In 1919 Professor Alderman attended his first meeting of the Hort Society and arranged for the office to be on the University Farm Campus. In 1920 Roger McIntosh became executive secretary on a part-time basis. In 1944 Albert Hunt became the executive. The continuity of administration has been responsible for the growth and health of the society. By the late 1950's there were over 1,000 members.

In 1955 the society formed a committee to work on the arboretum. In three years they had raised the money and bought the farm and arranged for the University to operate it. In 1958 the Arboretum which has tripled in size, was presented to the University, but the Horticultural Society continues its support.

Here's hoping continuing success of the Hort Society for another 100 years!

LOCAL HYBRIDIZERS HONORED

Two of our own Twin City Iris Society hybridizers have received the H. C. Award (high commendation) from the American Iris Society this year. David Sindt won the award for his dwarf seedling F-701, which is a brilliant variegata from Inca Chief by Sulina (species Pumila). This is only one of several nice things David got from this cross.

Maybelle Wright received the H. C. Award for her Miss Ruffles, a French blue border bearded from Lula Marguerite by Chivalry. To receive the H. C. Award an iris must receive at least five votes indicating it is worthy of being introduced.

Alice Bakke's Princess Greta (from Zantha, Ola Kala, and Palomino) put on a very nice show at the A.I.S. Convention in Newark. Dr. Halleck was so impressed that he called long distance to tell about it.
