

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS and VIEWS

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November, 1961

As we again enter the Holiday Season, time to join fellow members of the Iris Society for an evening of fun draws near. This is our annual Christmas Party which has become a tradition and high-point of the year for many of our members. We wish to extend a hearty invitation to each and every one in our society to attend. Our Program Chairman and President-elect, Glenn F. Hanson, will give you the details:

My contribution to this month's News and Views is going to take up more than my usual allotment of space. The reason is that I have something to say in each of two different personalities — the current program chairman, and the predecessor to next year's program chairman.

The program chairman says:

November is the month of our last meeting of the year and our annual Christmas party. The time is 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 30. The place is our usual meeting place, the Minneapolis Y.W.C.A. at 12th Street and Nicollet Avenue. The room number will be posted at the elevator in the lobby.

When I first began to plan for this event, I wondered what the members would like to do this year, so I called enough of our folks to constitute a cross section and asked for suggestions. The response was such as to simplify a program chairman's life, because almost everybody wanted to do just about what we did last year. There seemed no point in trying to be original under these circumstances, so if the following sounds somewhat familiar — it's because it should be!

We will open the evening with a brief business meeting, after which the installation of the new officers will be conducted by Mrs. Stenoien. The rest of the evening will then be devoted strictly to fun. Everyone is asked to bring an inexpensive gift (limit - 75¢) suitable for a gardening friend, and about a dozen Christmas cookies or other little goodies. We will swap the gifts and eat the goodies, donating any that are left over to some charitable institution. Our artistically inclined members are invited to bring their favorite home made Christmas decorations. Everybody seems to have particularly enjoyed this portion of the program in the past, and some highly original and attractive creations have turned up.

As noted at the dinner last month, this is the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Twin City Iris Society. The Charter Members have been issued an invitation and they will be honored in a recognition ceremony by Mrs. Alice Stenoien.

We will have some more of Miss Adah Anderson's famous party games, and there will be a couple of prizes guaranteed to be well worth winning. We will also sing a few Christmas carols. (Everybody please practice a bit in advance, or maybe we should bring a couple of talented friends!) Finally, we will finish off the evening with coffee and cookies to the strains of recorded Christmas music.

This is the big fun event of the year. The better the attendance the more fun, so please come.

The predecessor to next year's program chairman says:

After a year of experience as your program chairman, I can't pass up this opportunity to possibly smooth the way a little for my successor. During the past year I received a lot of comments on our programs, some favorable and some not so favorable, some constructive and some not so constructive, but all welcome. Generally speaking, everyone is in agreement that the caliber of our program material has to be maintained and constantly improved if we hope to retain the interest of our members and obtain good attendance at our meetings. But as a practical matter, the number of actual concrete suggestions that I received was disappointingly small.

I wonder how many of our members realize how difficult it is to come up with consistently good programs in a specialized society like ours. General garden clubs can bring in outside speakers, but where would you go to get an outside speaker on the specific subject of irises? Almost all of the iris specialists in this area are already members of our society, so we are pretty well limited to drawing on our own folks. This circumstance certainly provides us with a wealth of talent within our own ranks, but it also rather severely limits the variety of things that we can do without straying over our boundaries and getting into somebody else's specialty. Once or twice during the year we can profitably use material pertaining to other garden subjects, and these meetings are usually well attended and highly interesting. But the fact remains that we are an iris society, and we don't want to become just another garden club.

This, then, is an appeal for your assistance and cooperation to our new program chairman. She is working on our 1962 program schedule right now, and the time is quite limited. The entire schedule for the year will have to be completed by the first week of December to permit approval by the board of directors and inclusion in the 1962 year book. If you have any ideas or suggestions that you think will improve our meetings, please pass them along to Mrs. Tom Wright. Her telephone number is TU. 1-8125 and her address is 10051 Brookside Avenue, Minneapolis 20.

... G. F. Hanson

Dear Iris Society Members:

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the wonderful co-operation of those who worked so tirelessly, and given so much of their talents and time this year.

The success of our Hybridizing program this past year will show in the near future, if we continue to support it as enthusiastically as we have the past year.

It has been my pleasure serving you as President. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Milt Dale

At the Annual Dinner meeting last month the officers for 1962 were elected and will be installed at this next meeting. Your new officers will be:

President:	Glenn F. Hanson
1st Vice Pres.	Maybelle Wright (Mrs. Tom)
2nd Vice Pres.	Urban Ipsen
Secretary:	Dorothy Rudser (Mrs. Stanley)
Corres. Secy.	Carol Lankow (Mrs. George)
Treasurer:	Granville B. Gable
Directors:	Alice Bakke (Mrs. O.A.) Virginia Messer (Mrs. D.C.)

Notes from the Region 8 Vice President of the American Iris Society - our own G.B.Gable.

A I.S. SYMPOSIUM (POPULARITY POLL)

This year a grand old iris passed out of the 100 Best as it was originally known more than a decade ago. The first year, 1940, only fifty irises were selected and this iris entered in 21st place. During the next fifteen years it was always within the first twenty five except in 1950 when such famous irises were relegated into the Hall of Fame and taken off the poll. Never in first place, although in 1952 it was second, this grand old iris remained in the Symposium longer than all the other forty nine irises except Wabash. Twenty one years one of the 100 best and still a grand show flower and Queen of the Show at Owensboro, Kentucky this year. This famous iris, Sable, will be around for years.

... G. B. Gable

JUDGES CHOICE - The purchase of the top three irises of the Judges' Choice each year would be a better investment for the commercial growers than blue chips on the stock market.

In 1958, the top three were Frost & Flame, Butterscotch Kiss and Lynn Hall. The top two were voted into the Symposium of 100 Favorite that same year and Lynn Hall made it in 1959. All three received the Award of Merit in 1959. Three excellent irises now coming down with-in buying range for many of our members.

The following year, 1959, Whole Cloth, Amethyst Flame and Allegiance were the top trio and all received the A.M. in 1960. Whole Cloth and Amethyst Flame made the 100 Favorite list in 1959 and Allegiance jumped right into 31st place in 1960. This year they stand in 7th, 10th & 21st in the Symposium.

1960 found Emma Cook, Pretty Carol and Indiglo in the 1, 2, 3 positions of the Judges Choices. Again the top two made the Symposium in 1960 and Indiglo made it this year. All three received the A.M. this year.

This year Rococo, Black Swan and Dot & Dash were voted 1, 2, 3 positions and all three were new this year in the Symposium of 100 Favorite Irises.

Many of our members will be replacing older varieties with the above twelve irises of the future. Maybe not this year, but later.

... G. B. Gable

REMEMBER — COME TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 8:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Y.W.C.A. Bring any new ideas for Christmas Decorations, a 75¢ gift and some Christmas goodies. Some extras would be appreciated. Last year our extra Christmas goodies went to a home for the elderly and were greatly appreciated. Also, if you have small gift boxes in which cookies could be packed for individual giving it would be nice to bring them along.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL !!!!!
