

Twin City Iris Society

News and Views

Volume X No. 1

January, 1961

The January meeting of the Twin City Iris Society will be held Thursday, January 26, 1961, at the Downtown Y.W.C.A. in Minneapolis, our regular meeting place, at 8:00 P.M.

Mrs. Alice Stenoien will be the program speaker. Since this is a new year, let's all start right and make it a year of perfect attendance at our meetings.

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MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

January 15, 1961

It seems more like April than January as I am writing this memo. I surely hope you all have been cautious enough to have your Iris beds well covered.

Our major project this year, because of the overwhelming interest of our members, will be hybridizing. Mrs. Tom Wright, who has been active in this field, will be our hybridizing Chairman.

With the enthusiasm, help, and cooperation of each one, I am sure it will be a very rewarding experience.

Mrs. Alice Stenoien, in her own lovable way, will start our year off with a talk and slides on "How to Use Iris in the Landscape". With this being the month to make our plans for spring planting and thoughts on how to improve our landscape, I am sure we will all receive much knowledge from Alice's presentation.

Sincerely,

Milt Dale

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Do you always start a New Year by saying — "This year things will be different— my garden is going to be — " ? I think, undoubtedly, that gardeners are the most optimistic as well as the most dissatisfied people in existence. I have never seen — or heard — one who could say, "My garden is just the way I want it — it's perfect." No, one is much more likely, if he be so bold as to give an opening, to hear all sorts of plans for hoped-for improvements; changing this bed, shifting a plant here, planting a new shrub there, digging up that ("It isn't worth the space") and on and on —

Now is the time that each mail seems to bring one of those fairy tales come true, the seed and nursery catalogues. We dream of true perfection as we see the beautiful pictures luring us onward. Never mind that ours will never be that large, that perfect in form — we can dream, can't we? Aside from the dreaming, now is the time to really put some constructive thought and planning into our future garden plans. New varieties should be studied to see if they really are different or if some of the tried and true will do the job better. Maybe there are annuals or perennials that we've never grown before that would add just the right touch — try something new and exotic — a true adventure in gardening. There is always a thrill in see-

ing something grow and bloom that we have never before had in our garden. Perhaps we should look into the new roses — and gorgeous ones there are — for just the one to cause "ohs" and "ahs" next summer.

Most important of all to those of us in the Iris Society should be the planning for bigger and more beautiful Iris plantings than ever before. Get out your notes on the new varieties you saw last summer — plan color groupings — plan for early to late bloom — etc., etc. We hope too that in those plans everyone will include a plan to do a little hybridizing next summer so that the second year following they may have the thrill of seeing their own creation blooming. Who knows, you may really have the "perfect Iris" — but if you don't, it's still a thrill to know it is your iris.

Many of the Iris Catalogues have hints as to feasible and interesting crosses yet to be tried and much advice can be gleaned from these sources — there are also books and pamphlets for the novice or advanced hybridizer. About one-half of our members have announced that soon they'll have bloom from seeds and we'd like to see 100% participation in this most interesting phase of iris culture.

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The Christmas party was a great success with many, many delicious goodies gracing a beautifully set and decorated table. It was decided that the excess of the Christmas treats should be sent to the patients at the Mount Olivet Nursing Home through Mrs. Ethel Smith of St. Paul. She took them home and made individual packets and delivered them to the home.

Our thanks go to Mrs. Smith for unselfishly giving of her time at such a busy time of year to help these people. The Iris Society, through Mrs. Smith, received the following letter regarding the cookies:

December 5, 1960

TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY
c/o Mrs. Ethel Smith
197 Amherst
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Friends:

In behalf of the patients at the Mount Olivet Nursing Home, I would like to thank you for the lovely cookies that were given to them by your group. Your thoughtfulness in remembering these folks was greatly appreciated.

May each of you have a most blessed Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

RKY:ga

Reuben K. Youngdahl

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TALL AND Dwarf of it. . .

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Tandey are the proud parents of a baby girl, born on December 22, 1960. She weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. The Landeys now have three girls. Congratulations from all the members of the Society.

Mrs. Ethel Smith wishes to thank all of the Iris Society friends who signed the greeting card sent her when she was in the hospital. She states that she appreciated it more than she could say.

(If you have any items for our gossip column The Tall and Dwarf of It, please call the editor at WE.9-8920. We would also appreciate contributions of articles which should be in our hands by the 10th of the month.)

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In thinking of companion plantings for Iris so that our gardens will have succession of bloom, the day lilies and chrysanthemums are very important. We have ordered some of the new Lehman introductions in chrysanthemums that sound so exciting. Among them are:

Bronze Button (1961) - pompom, blooms Sept. 26.

Flame (1961) - new lively red, very bright, Sept. 20

Snappy (1961) - Carmine rose, Sept. 10

Twink (1961) - Purple button pom-pom, Sept. 26.

August Queen (1960) - Very early, August 12, pink cream.

Ruby Mound (1960) - We had this one last year - it was beautiful.

Mr. Lehman says: Far ahead of any red cushion we have seen — sensational — non-fading. (You have to see it to appreciate it.)

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The University of Minnesota is introducing a new mum this year called Wayzata — it is a yellow and much more compact and non-fading than any of their other yellows.

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Remember !! next meeting Thursday, January 26 — Y.W.C.A. — 8:00 PM
Program: Mrs. Alice Stenoien "How to Use Iris in the Landscape."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!

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