

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

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JANUARY 19, 1967
8 P.M.

Guaranty State Bank
3700 West Broadway

SCHREINER Slides of New Iris

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the beginning of this new year, I wish happiness to each of you, and a further wish for the fulfillment of all your hopes and dreams.

This is a season for dreaming. As the gardens lie sleeping under a heavy blanket of snow, our thoughts turn to the coming growing season with its riot of color. The first seed catalogue intensifies these dreams with its gay illustrations of new and old favorites.

It is the hope of this organization that you will derive much pleasure, enjoyment, help, and information during the coming months. We hope to see you often and have the pleasure of your fellowship.

Dorothy Rudser, President

January is just a little early to pour over seed catalogues, but a good time to sharpen and recondition those garden tools. That paint or enamel left over from paint jobs can be used on the handles of spades, rakes, hoes, and trowels. Makes them easy to locate when left in the garden or to identify when loaned or lost.

G. B. Gable

Cliff Stover is at home convalescing from a November heart attack. Best wishes for a speedy recovery!

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

Special congratulations are due this month to Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Wormuth, for they became citizens of the United States on December 14, 1966. Manfred first came to this country sponsored by Alice Stenoi. (We suspect Alice Bakke was a behind the scenes sponsor too.) While in U.S. military service in Germany, Manfred met Linda and they were married in Germany. The Wormuths now have two young boys,

Klaus and Michael, and a home of their own in North Minneapolis

Our new president, Mrs. Stanton (Dorothy) Rudser, joined the Iris Society in 1960 after coming as a visitor with Mrs. Bakke first. She has held the offices of secretary and membership chairman each for two years. The Rudsers have three daughters (2 teachers and a nurse who lives in Alaska) and two sons (1 in the Navy in Alaska and 1 a high school student at home). Mrs. Rudser likes to knit, especially Norwegian sweaters and mittens. We wish her a good year as president of our society.

Mr. G. B. Gable, much respected charter member and past treasurer and director of T.C.I.S., has been growing iris since about 1940, and growing them commercially since 1946. His first catalogue came out in 1950. Official records show Mr. Gable spent 46 years (including military service) in the railway mail service, starting in 1917. In addition to gardening, Mr. Gable is a sports fan with a special interest in baseball. The Gables have four sons (2 in Minneapolis, 1 in Syracuse, New York, and 1 in Lake Mills, Iowa) and eight grandchildren (5 girls and 3 boys). Note several contributions in this issue by Mr. Gable.

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IF I WERE STARTING TO HYBRIDIZE

By G. B. Gable

Who am I to tell others what to use to make the best crosses for success in hybridizing? More than twenty years ago, Adrian Gibson and I made crosses, planted seed and grew over four thousand seedlings without finding a single one worthy of saving. After these many years I believe I have learned enough about line-breeding that I could grow iris seedlings to compare favorably with many being introduced.

It has been said that we are in error classifying most plant breeders as hybridizers. Only those who cross two different species of a plant family can produce a hybrid and be called a hybridizer.

Now is the time to make plans for the crosses to be made next June, and I believe an important factor is the selection of the pollen plant. Many plants are sterile and produce no pollen, so it is important to study the parentage of our best named varieties.

Capitola blooms well here and is not difficult to grow. It is perhaps the most famous pollen parent of our recent hybrids. The late Jack Linse used pollen from Capitola on New Snow and produced some very fine hybrids. I feel sure that using Capitola pollen would give a lot of satisfaction and surprises.

I believe the novice would be rewarded and gain confidence quicker if starting with white and light blue varieties. These colors when crossed produce both white and blue. Snow Flurry without a doubt is the greatest parent of all, and I would use varieties carrying as many crosses of Snow Flurry as possible. Cliffs of Dover has been proven both as a pod and pollen parent and will serve as an excellent source of pollen. I would use it on both white and light blue.

Azure Skies has given us ruffling. Cloud Castle has been a very good parent and appears in the pedigrees of many of the finest blues and whites. See Fluted Haven. Gloriole was one of the good light blue parents that transmitted good branching to its progenies. Cahokia, Jane Phillips, Chivalry, Helen McGregor, and Celestial Blue have been used with an abundance of success in producing many of

our excellent blues and whites. Remember that the pollen from Celestial Blue on Snow Flurry produced Celestial Snow. I would use the best new varieties I could afford having the above varieties in their pedigrees.

Line breeding brings out both the best and the worst qualities of the parents. Closely related plants can be crossed. Pollen from a seedling can be used on the pod parent with excellent results. The nearer you stay to related plants in line breeding the greater your chances will be for success.

Next to the whites and light blues, I believe a lot of satisfaction could be had crossing plicatas, and Caroline Jane would be my pollen plant. Blue Petticoats with its ruffling and clarity of color should produce wonderful seedlings. Belle Meade, Rococo and Dotted Swiss could contribute abundantly.

After gaining confidence, a person could go on with pink, yellow and violet. I wouldn't advise a novice to try red or the amoenas. Too much disappointment here.

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NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

With delightful interest in the individuals and engaging sense of humor, Greta Kessenich installed the following as 1967 officers of the Twin City Iris Society at the November meeting:

President	Mrs. Stanton Rudser
1st Vice President. . .	Mr. Walter Carlock
2nd Vice President. . .	Dr. Reuben David
Secretary	Mrs. LeRoy Duvall
Treasurer	Mr. Warren Johnson
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Urban Ipsen
Board of Directors	Mr. W. C. Sindt
(1967-1968).	Mrs. Clifford Stover
	Mrs. Glenn Hanson
Board of Directors	Mrs. O. A. Bakke
(1966-1967).	Mr. Henry Halvorson
	Mr. Carmine Sacco

Other highlights of the November meeting were the presentation of an Iris spoon to Mrs. Schoene, outgoing president; Regional Vice President Glenn Hanson's announcement that Region VIII had the largest increase in membership in the American Iris Society and has \$50 in its treasury for the first time in history, and the Twin City Iris Society had the No. 1 Iris in the United States in 1966; and The Three Knights (our own Glenn Hanson, and his friends Frank Celusnak and Clarence Anderson) entertaining us with music.

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HANDY HELPS

By G. B. Gable

Did it take all forenoon to get the power mower started the first time you used it last spring? Gasoline left in the gas tank and carburetor over winter will evaporate and leave a gum that may clog the float and needle valve and cause a lot of delay and trouble next spring when you try to start the engine on your power mower or tractor. To avoid that trouble, pour some carburetor solvent

into the gas tank and run the motor until the gas tank is dry.

If you have not done this and difficulty is experienced starting the motor, remove the air filter and pour a small quantity of the solvent into the air intake of the carburetor and a generous amount into the gas tank. Turn the motor over several times to draw the gas and solvent through the carburetor valves, wait a while for the solvent to dissolve the gum, and the old engine will run like new. This same treatment will work wonders on the old car too.

Several years ago Ben Haeg presented me with one of the most useful tools I have ever used in the iris garden. He took an old spading fork, sawed off the two outside tines with a hack saw and ground the rough burrs off on an emery wheel.

I can cut an iris rhizome loose with a knife and dig it without disturbing the balance of the clump. When I want to spade up a small area, I can do it easier and quicker than with a full sized spading fork. Takes little effort to push it into the ground. Not necessary to use my foot. This is one garden tool I would not do without.

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DUES NOTICE

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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)

(with Minnesota State Horticultural Society subscription)

Family membership as above	4.00
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Twin City Iris Society	1.50
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(If you receive "The Hort" through another society)

Family membership as above	2.00
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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 January 19, 1967 meeting.

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