

# Twin City Iris Society

## NEWS & VIEWS

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### "AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION REPORT"

by  
Julius Wadekamper

September 21, 1967

8:00 P.M.

Guaranty State Bank  
3700 West Broadway

Member JULIUS WADEKAMPER must feel like the most popular man in the Twin City Iris Society this month. He received letters from President Dorothy Rudser and the News & Views editor, one asking him to speak and the other to write about the national convention in Denver. Neither knew the other was making the request, and Julius, trying to please both, sent a few notes of highlights of the convention, but promises to give more detail at the meeting.

The American Iris Society held its National Convention in Denver, Colorado, on Wednesday, May 31, and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 1, 2, and 3.

Unusual weather conditions affected the bloom. March and April were unseasonably warm, forcing the iris into an early start. Then, several severe cold spells caused extensive damage to the dwarf and median blossoms and froze buds on many of the tall bearded varieties.

On the day of the convention opening Denver received up to eight inches of hail in many parts of the city. All in all, this was a real test for the iris. Some gardens were not visited because they were entirely hailed out. This was true of the Alpahr Gardens, which I understand are really beautiful.

About 350 members of the American Iris Society attended the convention. The headquarters were at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in downtown Denver. Several bus trips were made to visit gardens in outlying places. These included Long's gardens in Boulder, Colorado State University in Fort Collins, the Brown and Loomis Gardens in Colorado Springs, and Bakers Acre and the Denver Botanic Gardens in Denver. Many beautiful iris were seen in these various places.

The trips were not all restricted to iris gardens. A tour of the Air Force Academy was very informative and inspirational. A visit and a meal at the Flying W Ranch, where the group was entertained by real Country Western Cowboys, was relaxing and enjoyable.

Members were given the opportunity to attend a judging school, which was administered by Larry Gaultier and Bill Bledsoe.

Some outstanding iris at the gardens visited included STEPPING OUT by Schreiner, in my estimation the finest thing I saw at the convention. Other very good varieties were SUNNY SPLENDOR, GLOWING TIARA, TAWNY MINK, FUJI'S MANTLE, HIGH PRAISE, CLOUD CAPERS, TALENT SHOW, and LHASA.

Some good varieties were MAD MAID, GINGERSNAP, JEWEL TONE, CHORDETTE, ETERNAL FLAME, WILD GINGER, and AVIS.

Among the new introductions, Dr. Durrance's AZURE APOGEE was the best. Running a close second was 33-63 by Niswonger of Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

There were so many beautiful iris that it was difficult to limit the choice ones to a few. Others that are normally supposed to be very beautiful did not perform well, undoubtedly due to the weather conditions. Among these were WINTER OLYMPICS, which was a sad disappointment in three different gardens in two different cities. ULTRAPOISE was also disappointing. In general, the California introductions could not take the unusual weather conditions too well. In contrast, the Minnesota introductions, few that there were, were hardy, robust, and didn't seem to suffer, although most of them didn't bloom either.

In conclusion, I would like to add, if you ever have an opportunity to attend a national convention, do not pass it up. There is nothing quite like it.

Thanks, Julius, for the highlights. We're looking forward to hearing the whole story at the September meeting.

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#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On Thursday, October 19, at 6:30 P.M., the Twin City Iris Society will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting at the Swiss Chalet at Miracle Mile. Punch will be served during the gathering time, and we will use the regular cafeteria line with sirloin of beef added to the menu for our group. Cost is \$2.50, and reservations may be made at the September meeting or by calling Mrs. Glenn Hanson, 561-1748, or Mrs. George Sutton, 529-3412.

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What effect does winter mulch (covering) have on soil temperature?

ANS ... Temperature beneath the surface of the soil in well mulched areas seldom goes lower than 20 degrees. Good mulch covering also prevents rapid changes in soil temperature, an important factor in winter survival of plants.

-- From Minn. State Hort. Society Garden Quiz

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . . . .

Mrs. John Pike is back home and out of bed after a heart attack on August 22? Best wishes for continued gain of strength, Mrs. Pike.

Betty Ipsen and daughter Julie Ann made a trip to Winnipeg where they were very impressed by the gardens? The English garden in Assiniboine Park and the rock and flower gardens in Kildonen Park were noticeably free of litter as compared to our parks, as was the flower garden on the mall in front of the legislature building. Each yard in the small towns enroute had a whole garden, not just a few flowers. Reason for the trip was Julie Ann's participation in the Manitoba Free Skating Competition on September 2. She took first place in the juvenile ladies' division, as she did in the St. Paul Open Free Skating Competition in July.

Glenn Hanson has an article entitled "The Many Faces of the Genus Iris" in The Minnesota Horticulturist for August? The cover of that issue also has an unusual drawing of an iris by R. M. Reinhardt.

We have seven new members since June? Welcome to

Mrs. A. M. Anderson, 5425 Elliot Avenue South, Minneapolis 55417

Mrs. Marian Crowley, Rt. #4, Mankato 56001

Mrs. John A. Schuten, 3522 Stinson Boulevard, Minneapolis 55418

Mr. & Mrs. David Reeves, 6344 James Ave. So., Minneapolis 55423

Mrs. Henry Ewers, 6925 35th Place North, Minneapolis 55427

Mrs. Ray Brown, Rt. 1, Rosemount 55068

Profit on the Auction in August was \$504.53? Table sales totaled \$115.35; auction sales, \$589.95. Expenses were \$95.00, and total certificates redeemed (prizes from the June show) were \$105.77. Auction Chairman Urban Ipsen thanks all those who donated and/or helped with the auction, and all those who bought iris, making the auction a success.