

As gardeners, we are becoming more and more concerned with the current Magazine Radio and TV discussions on the dangers of DDT, and some of the other well known pesticides. Our program this month, therefore, should be of interest to every grower of both ornamentals, fruits and vegetables.

Our speaker, Professor Laurence Cutkomp, will talk to us on "HAZARDS, PRECAUTIONS, and USES OF INSECTICIDES." Professor Cutcomp is professor of the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota. He is a graduate of Biology at Iowa Wesleyan College. His PhD. degree was obtained from Cornell University in New York in 1942. He carried out research on Mode of Action of DDT when it first became available in the mid 1940's. Professor Cutkomp was on leave for two years, 1965 - 1967, serving as entomologist for the International Atomic Energy Agency, headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

At the University of Minnesota, Professor Cutkomp has prepared numerous bulletins and information sheets for insect control and safe insecticidal application. I'm sure you will all want to bring notebooks to take down this very valuable information we will be privileged to have presented to us by an authority such as Professor Cutkomp. Make this a special date on your calendar - February 20, 1969 at 8PM at the Guaranty State Bank in Robbinsdale.

- Alice Stenoin



The Northwestern Flower Garden and Builders Show will be held March 14-23 at the Minneapolis Convention Hall. We are supplied space worth about \$250 to promote the Iris and our Society. Walter Carlock has agreed to set up and arrange our booth. The need is for people to man the booth evenings and weekends to answer questions on the Society and on Irises. Please volunteer. This is an opportunity to obtain memberships and meet people who are interested. See Walter at the meeting or call him. Passes will be furnished. Suggestions are solicited.

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# ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT PRESENTATION BY THE WISCONSIN IRIS SOCIETY

An Iris Show on June 7th and 8th will be a feature of the National Convention of the American Iris Society. The theme of the Artistic section is, "THIS STATE, WISCONSIN." We chose this theme to acquaint out of state visitors with our wonderful state. The following classes refer to past history, 1- PRIMEVAL WISCONSIN, 2- FIRST WISCONSINITES, 3- ORIENT ON GREEN BAY, 4- BLACK ROBES AND RED SKINS, 5- THE DIGGINS. Of course, this is just a short version of our past history. Our present day history is represented by Class 6- TIMBER-R-R-R, 7- AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND, 8- BEAUTY IN INDUS-TRY, 9- GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH, 10- GEOGRAPHIC GOOD FORTUNE. We are forcasting the future with the following classes, 11- THE FUTURE IS UP, 12- SKY IS THE LIMIT, 13-WEB OF EXPRESSWAYS, 14- LAKESHORE CULTURAL CENTER, 15- FORWARD. Our Junior section is represented with three classes which also cover past, present and future history. Class 16- MAMMAL AGE, 17- WONDERLAND OF NATURE, 18- AGE OF ROCKETS. This is our floral condensed state history lesson.

We are looking forward to meeting our Minnesota friends, and hope that all enjoy the show as well as all the other activities that have been planned for your enjoyment.

- Lynn Bausch, Chairman, Artistic WIS

Classes are limited. Show schedules will be available at the meeting. -Editor.



News and Views

President's Message

We made some promises to the membership at the last two meetings. I'm happy to report to you now that those promises are formulated and being carried out. We hope to honor what has been done in the past, bring Iris activity of the present into sharper focus, and even lay some ground work for the future.

This is the time of year when tempers grow short. Think about some of the areas where the society needs your help to be an active growing organization. Now is the time to plan. Now is the time to bring forth your own ideas and become part of the active growing world of the Iris. Forget the long, long winter and concentrate on the season we all wait for.

The June Show is second to none in the country, thanks to Greta Kessenich's capacity for organization. Have you ever tried arranging? Men as well as women can delve into this challenging area and feel a sense of competition that exhilarates. You'll learn a new respect for judges and help Greta create a show the public will never forget. Want another reason?

There is a good chance people from all over the U.S. may stop here during the show. If they do, they will carry the impression with them that we here have the staging and organization for a national show. Are any of you willing to open your gardens for a tour if these visitors develop?

The early show will need every exhibitor, even one bloom of any type. This show has appeal that is accented by the end of a dreary winter. How do you protect the blooms from rain and frost? Try and give this your support. It is needed.

A broad study has been authorized by the board to establish recommendations and control of public display plantings. Sign up for your special interest group at the next meeting.

Transportation by bus to and from Milwaukee can be set up for about \$16.00 each if we get thirty people to attend as a group. Sign up at the next meeting or call Mrs. Rudser.

Take a look at the material in the library, as anything not used or demanded will not be reordered. This is a new benefit for you, so give it a chance to succeed. None of us is aware of every phase of Iris culture, even in our own specialty.

This will be a heck of a good meeting. Come on along.

- Warren Johnson

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# EARLY IRIS SHOW - 1969

### By David B. Sindt

The second Early Iris Show of the Twin City Iris Society will be held at the regular meeting of the Twin City Iris Society on May 15, 1969, at the Guarantee State Bank of Robbinsdale. Because of the fine response last year to the first show, which was non-competitive, this year the show will be judged and ribbons awarded. The smaller entries will be shown in tubes provided by the show committee, the larger ones in bottles supplied by the exhibitor.

There will be separate sections for the following types of irises, based on American Iris Society classification: Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB); Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB); Intermediate Bearded (IB); Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB); Border Bearded (BB); Standard Tall Bearded (TB); Pure Aril; Arilbred (Must show distinct aril characteristics); Bearded Species (clones grown from seeds or plants collected in the wild); and Seedlings (divided by the same classes listed above.)

Classification of varieties will be based on the AIS Check Lists and Registration Lists; the Median Iris Society Check List; and the Dwarf Iris Society Check List; each for the section(s) to which it best applies. Copies of these publications will be available at the show for the use of exhibitors. The committee will also be glad to help exhibitors who have questions about classification, and may re-classify misplaced entries at their own discretion. It is recommended that exhibitors who have varieties that they may desire to enter in the show and of which they are unsure of classification call a member of the committee before the show for classification to save time at the show.

It is expected that there will be between 1 and 15 color classes within each of the above sections, with an optimum class size of 3 to 6 entries. There will also be classes for potted iris plants and multiple stalk entries in some sections. A listing of color classes will be available, but depending on the number of entries, these may be combined or divided at the discretion of the committee. We are doing this because of the unpredictability of a show of this type and to provide competition with the resulting educational value in as many classes as possible.

We expect to select judges from among the accredited judges (AIS and DIS) in the Society best qualified to judge the entries regardless of whether they have entries in the classes they are judging. It is expected that the results thus obtained will be more satisfactory than attempting to disqualify those who have entries in the classes, since experts on these classes of irises are quite limited in our society. The show committee will take full responsibility for any question of favoritism in judging, though it is expected that the judges will be more than fair to all exhibitors. A question period on the reasons for particular placings will perhaps answer some of the questions that may come up.

Ribbons will be awarded to first, second, and third place entries in each class where quality warrants. There will be a Queen of the Show and section champions for MDB, SDB, IB, MTB-BB-TB, Aril and Arilbred, and Seedlings. Sections without champions will also be eligible for Queen of the Show.

In addition to the ribbons, dwarf and median iris plants will be awarded to every person entering the show. The plants will be donated by Riverdale Iris Gardens of Minneapolis, specialists in dwarfs, medians, and arilbreds.

A complete listing of the results of the show will be published in the NEWS and VIEWS along with a listing of all varieties entered by their proper classifications. It is hoped that this will serve as a guide to those who enter next vear's show. Members of the show committee are David Sindt, Chairman; Glenn Hanson, Carol Lankow, Wilbert (Gus) Sindt, and Maybelle Wright.

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### ABOUT ARILS AND ARILBREDS AND SUCH LIKE

#### By G. F. Hanson

If you should happen to visit our place at blooming time next spring, you will find yourself in the midst of something over a thousand variations of the genus Iris. If it has three standards and three falls, the probability is that at some time or other we have tried, or will try to grow it. But if you happen to get there at the right time, just about the beginning of the early tall bearded season, we will probably spend most of the time in (and brag the loudest about) our collection of our most favorite favorites - our arilbreds. We have a lot of them, and every year we add some more. Some love us like faithful old dogs and behave accordingly. Some of them act up like spoiled children and embarrass us no end. But we love all of them, and we pamper them, and maybe you would like to know who they are and what they are all about.

Around the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea where Europe stops and Asia begins there lies an exotic and mysterious part of the world, replete with history, romance and fantasy. It calls forth connotations of turbans, flowing white robes, flashing scimitars, harems and crusades. To those of us who don't mind admitting that we can remember that far back, it might even inspire recollections of Rudolph Valentino riding a white horse through the desert with headdress streaming in the wind. It may be that some of these romantic concepts would suffer a bit if viewed at closer range in the light of our well fed, well scrubbed, opulent and sanitary modern way of life. But there is one group of inhabitants of that distant land that is just as exotic as our fantasies. It is the race of irises we classify as the arils

The arils are subdivided into two groups, oncocyclus and regelia, with several distinct species under each heading. An oncocyclus will usually have huge, globular standards, with somewhat smaller falls, and with large ornamental style arms. But its real claim to distinction lies in its exotic colorings, usually dotted, striped or splashed with other shades, and with large showy signal spots on the falls. The regelias, on the other hand, tend toward an elongated flower form, usually without the exotic contrasts, but with great purity of color. The two groups display their close relationship only in their seeds, which display white "arils" or wings on a black background of seed coating.

Wherever a beautiful flower exists in nature, human plant breeders will set out to improve it, and so these aril irises attracted the attention of hybridizers a long time ago. Early experiments along these lines disclosed that the regelias and the oncocycluses would cross with each other, and the result was a series of pure aril hybrids that somebody labeled the regeliocycluses. Some modern purists insist upon captioning some of them as oncogelias, depending upon which direction the cross was made, but that seems like an unnecessary frill to me. In any event, these experiments provided us with some new garden subjects with a further variety of delightful colorings, with onco markings on regelia shapes, and other variations. A desirable fringe benefit was that these hybrids proved much easier to grow than either the pure oncocyclus or regelia species.

But there still remained some problems before irises with aril blood could find their way into the gardens of others than specialists. The difficulties arose from the nature of that distant land that the arils inhabit, most of which is semi-arid if not outright desert. In the spring the rains come and the plants go into a flurry of activity, blooming, growing, setting seeds, forming new rhizomes. Then when the water is gone they subside into a long period of dormancy. There just isn't time for such luxuries as lush foliage, tall bloom stalks, branching, high bud count, or large rhizomes, so they exercise the strictest economy in all of these attributes. To paraphrase a current commercial, you can take aril out of the desert, but you can't

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take the desert out of the aril. So when they are taken out of their natural habitat they insist on these same conditions, and they will not tolerate water after they go dormant. Most pure aril fanciers grow them in pots to more easily meet their requirements.

It was an American who paved the way toward aril beauty in the average garden when he engineered the first cross between an oncocyclus species and a tall bearded hybrid, and his first creation was introduced to the iris world after his untimely death, most appropriately under his name - William Mohr. From that original breakthrough hybridizers have gone on to produce hundreds of hybrid irises derived from both oncocyclus and regelia species crossed with the familiar talls, medians and dwarfs. They give us the exotic beauty of the arils combined with the easier culture of the non-arils.

At this point we need to stop and define a few terms. If we cross an oncocyclus with a non-aril tall, median or dwarf, we call the offspring an oncobred. If we cross a regelia with a non-aril, we call the offspring a regeliabred. But what happens when we start crossing oncobreds with regeliabreds, and perhaps back to the non-aril lines? That is exactly the sort of complicated ancestry found in many of our modern aril-descended hybrids, so we have a convenient all-inclusive term. That term is "arilbred" since both the regelia and oncocyclus species are arils, and that is the term that should be used to designate this whole complex family.

Getting to the matter of culture, some of the arilbreds are as tractable as the most rugged of the tall beardeds, and will accept just about any conditions you give them. The majority, however, haven't completely forgotten their ancestry, and like human prima donnas, they demand a little special coddling. They like a deep, fertile, sandy soil that drains rapidly. Mone of the bearded irises like wet feet, but an arilbred will just grieve itself to death if you inflict that treatment on it. Most of them bloom early in the season, ahead of the tall beardeds, because they just don't quite trust that water supply. Many of them are hard to hybridize because they don't seem to like the idea of further mixing up their aristocratic blood. They may insist on going semi-dormant in midsummer, and with the cessation of active growth they become susceptible to unsightly leaf spot. They will probably have narrow foliage, and they will make relatively small rhizomes. This latter eccentricity is the reason why most of the large iris growers refuse to list a representative assortment of arilbreds. They want to send you a nice fat rhizome, and (probably rightly so) they don't quite trust their customers to accept the explanations that we arilbred growers usually pack with our orders. These, along with a few other temper tantrums, may be expected from the arilbreds from time to time.

So much for their bad habits. Why then, do we arilbred fanciers continue to pamper our naughty children, and what is worse, insist on extolling their virtues to the rest of the iris growing world? Because the're so fantastically beautiful; that's why! You can grow yourself a whole garden full of talls, medians and dwarfs, and you will be surrounded by the loveliest flowers on the face of the earth. But you will never know just how gorgeous an iris can be until you get chummy with the arilbreds. When those great big, contrasty, splashed and spotted flowers once get to you - you're converted, my friend!

Growing and enjoying them is one thing. Showing them is another, and at this point I am going to make some pointed comments for which I hope to be forgiven. If you should happen to become as fanatical about these beauties as we are, and if you should accumulate a nice collection, and if then you should decide to start showing them, be prepared for some bitter disappointments. I have the highest regard for our accredited A.I.S. judges, but I blush to admit that there isn't one judge

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(con't - About Arils and Arilbreds and Such Like)

in ten who knows how to judge an arilbred. Almost invariably they're judged by tall bearded standards. If they have nice tall stalks with branching and several flowers open, it doesn't matter whether they show aril characteristics or not. For example, if you have a reasonably decent stalk of Lady Mohr, which normally branches well, you can take the show away from a really superb specimen of some much more typical arilbred. The old intermediate Master Neil makes pretty good looking stalks for its size, but it doesn't look like an arilbred. The tall yellow Phoebus Apollo might make a presentable stalk for inclusion in the yellow T.B. class, but you have to look at the plant habit to even believe that it has aril blood.

A good arilbred should combine the best characteristics of both its aril and its non-aril ancestry. If you can get some branching, so much the better. But the flower should be the first consideration. If it comes from oncocyclus ancestry it should have the huge domed standards, prominent style arms, contrasts of coloring, and perhaps the signal spot if appropriate to that variety. If its ancestor was a regelia it should be elongated (a fault by T.B. standards) and the clear coloring typical of the group should be apparent. If it looks like a T.B. but was shown in the arilbred class because it happens to have aril blood, it should be disqualified. After all, you don't judge a radish by the same standards as a petunia! So to those judges who don't know the arilbreds and aren't interested in learning about them, I would suggest - don't hunt for the first Lady Mohr and hang the blue ribbon on it. Disqualify yourself when you come to this division.

Finally, not everyone has the same likes and dislikes. Roast beef and potatoes are for everyone, but lobsters, Roquefort cheese and sherry are not. Irises are for everyone, but arilbreds are not. Some of them are as gentle as kittens and as tractable as plow horses. Some are as mean as a she bear with cubs! But if these exotic queens appeal to you, and if you are willing to provide the sandy, well drained beds they require, and if you will tolerate their sometimes temperamental personalities, and pet and pamper them a little, then they will put beauty and variety into your plantings such as no other iris can provide.

Here is a note from a far off member, Mrs. Chester Welte of Bagley, Minnesota. "Several years ago I decided to choose the Iris as my special hobby plant. My first garden consisted of a gift of about a dozen irises. What a thrill it was to see those first blooms. Since then, I have had at one time 100 or more, but at present less, due to loss. I joined the Twin City Iris Society at the same time. Distance kept me from attending meetings but the NEWS AND VIEWS publications were a great help and inspiration to a beginner. I also had the privilege of attending some of the shows. Moving to Bagley, I joined the Bagely Garden Club. Later I was asked to be general chairman of the first Iris and Peony show. I have been a member of the AIS since 1959.

"Hybridizing, I find interesting and fascinating. Seeing ones first bloom of your own crosses is a thrill. So far haven't produced anything worthwhile. My main goal here is hardiness besides other qualities of substance and branching, etc.

"Living on a farm there is no limit to expansion, but there is a limit to how much one can take care of." Mrs. Chester Welte.

The state flower of Tennessee is the iris.

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### GARDEN CULTURE

## By Greta Kessenich

A gardener once said, "If I knew of a perfect garden, I would not walk, I would run to see it! "

In our Society, we work and strive to grow irises that will eventually find their way to the show tables. However problems do arise during the days and weeks from the time the first tiny green fan peeks through the soil to the blooming period in June. We never know just what we will find in the spring when the garden is uncovered. Whatever is found in a number of plants in your garden, whether healthy or diseased rhizomes, be assured you are not alone. Other gardens will be about the same.

Gardeners are reluctant to bring up the subject of their problems or losses at a meeting. The first few lines of the Constitution of the Twin City Iris Society reads in part: "This organization is founded for the sole purpose of promoting the culture of iris, etc, etc." With this in mind I would like to relate a few simple facts.

Diseases caused by fungi, bacteria or viruses are more difficult to control because they cannot be seen. Insects are much easier to control. Experienced gardeners know plants should be sprayed regularly to keep them healthy. Keep a good pest control material handy and if used as directed, it is relatively safe to handle.

The first of April (weather permitting) remove the winter covering, clean up all clumps, check labels. Weeding begins. The pesky little iris borer enjoys the warm days of early spring. It is then time to start your spraying program. As spring goes into summer, rot in iris rhizomes is sometimes prevalent. Iris growers have their own tried remedy, namely, sulpher, Comet cleanser, solution of Clorax, etc. All are good and not at all harmful. Also one can buy a commercial disinfectant. I have found that cleaning out all soft substance in the affected rhizome with the garden spoon and exposing the wound to the sun, which is the best disinfectant of all, will take care of the problem.

However let me go further and say, irises that are diseased in any way are dug, treated, dried and isolated. It has always been a challange to grow them to a healthy blooming plant. Space has been allotted for this very purpose, called "Sick bay". Here I have 50 to 75 varieties growing. Plants that have been scorched, weak, or diseased are given special attention and culture. If left in the regular garden, they would have been lost and other plants might have become affected. At the time of their removal, soil is treated. Whether a rhizome is from your favorite plant or a \$35 introduction, it is special to you and well worth the effort put forth to save it.

Healthy rhizomes produce beautiful flowers. Enjoy your hobby of growing irises and accept the challange of gardening at its best.

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Maybelle Wright has some suggestions for new irisarians. "If you are going to plant a new iris bed and don't want to spend too much, I think the following would be in my want list: CELESTIAL SNOW, ELEANOR'S PRIDE, LYNN HALL, ROSY VEIL, DOTTED SWISS, PINMACLE, SABLE NIGHT, VIOLET HARMONY, ALLEGIANCE, OLYMPIC TORCH, AMETHYST FLAME, and FROST AND FLAME. I would rather have less of these not-too-old varieties than more of the real oldies."

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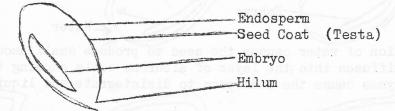
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### Water Requirements in the Germination of Iris Seed

### by Julius Wadekamper

The germination of iris seed has been discussed in several articles of the Bulletin of the American Iris Society. Our local hybridizers have at times contributed their observations on the germination of iris seeds. Two of these observations have led me to study the problem in greater detail. Mrs. O. A. Bakke - of Bakke-Messer team, noted for Minnesota Glitters - has commented several times that iris seeds must not be permitted to dry out during germination. She insists on constant watering so the soil remains moist at all times in the early spring when the seeds will be germinating. Dr. Reuben David noted that in the fall of 1968, after a summer of record rainfall, many of his seedlings were germinating. These had been planted the previous fall and failed to germinate during the spring. Associating these observations with what is known scientifically about seed germination we might conclude that water, a lot of water, is necessary for good iris seed germination.

It will be necessary to discuss, first of all, the structure of an iris seed. The seed is covered with a seed coat called a testa. Inside is a small embryo and a large quantity of endosperm.



Seeds with large quantities of endosperm are referred to as albuminous. This is typical of monocotyledons. The endosperm is food material for the young developing plant.

The seed coat varies with plant species. They vary in shape, color, texture and chemical composition. Monocotyledons usually have strong seed coats which is derived from the ovule, with two integumentary layers. The mature seed coat of of an iris is brown, rugose and apparently quite impermeable to water.

The hilum is a small scar where the seed was attached to the ovary. This scar is highly permeable to water and it is probably through the hilum that water enters the seed to start the process of germination.

The embryo in an iris is rod shaped, pointed at the ends and about four times as long as it is wide. One end is the root meristem and the other end is the hypocotyl. Sometimes a shoot bud or epicotyl is present on an embryo on the hypocotyl axis and a radicle or primordial root on the root axis. A root cap develops on the root end of the embryo.

Apparently there is no connection between the embryo and the endosperm. Excised embryos have been grown by the author and by others on nutrient agar. The embryonic cell wall is a permeable membrane through which hormones and nutrients can be absorbed and utilized by the developing embryo.

Growth is regulated by hormones. Water, absorbed through the hilum causes the embryo to produce small amounts of gibberellin. The gibberellin diffuses to the outermost layer of the endosperm called the aleurone layer and causes it to form enzymes. These enzymes cause the endosperm cells to desintegrate and liquify. Cytokins and auxin are formed in this process and they promote the growth of the embryo. Among the materials used by the developing seedling is nitrogen and

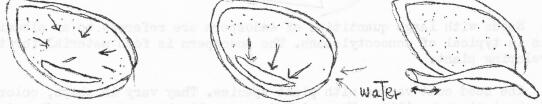
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nitrogen containing amino acids. These are important for the synthesis of protoplasm in the seedling. The germination of seed is accompanied by the rapid hydrolysis of reserve protein with the liberation of free amino acids. These amino acids are then translocated into the growing regions of the seedling where they are utilized in cellular synthesis.

The function of gibberellin was investigated in detail by Dr. Joseph Varner at the Plant Research Laboratory of Michigan State University. Under the influence of gibberellin the aleurone cells synthesize enzymes. One, amylase, hydrolyzes starch of the endosperm into sugar. Another breaks down nucleic acids and proteins. The breakdown of nucleic acids forms cytokinins and the breakdown of proteins gives rise to auxin. These newly formed hormones trigger cell growth and division. The cytokinins make the cells divide and the auxin promotes cell enlargement by weakening the cell walls so the cells can absorb water by osmosis and thus expand.



Absorption of water causes the seed to produce small amounts of gibberellin, which diffuses into the layer of aleurone cells causing them to form enzymes. The enzymes cause the endosperm to disintegrate and liquify.



Cytokinins and auxins formed promote the growth of the embryo making its cells enlarge and divide.

So we end by again observing the need for water in seed germination. Mrs. Bakke': observation that the seeds must not be permitted to dry out during the early stages of germination has a sound scientific basis.

# \* \* \* 8th DISTRICT MEETING

The first meeting of the 8th District of the AIS (Minn., Wisc.) will be held Sat. April 19, 1969 at West Salem, Wisc. It will be a luncheon meeting with the main emphasis on getting acquainted and setting up some sort of an organization.

While the 8th District has been in existance for many years this is the first time that a meeting of the members will be held. Mr. Protzmann, the regional vice president is responsible for this gathering. To help get acquainted, a few slides of members irises will be used. Start selecting some now so you don't forget.

By the way, if you are not an American Iris Society member you may still come and are invited to do so. The cost of luncheon will be \$3.50 with anything left over from this to be a start for the new district treasurer. West Salem is about 35 miles from Winona and just east of La Crosse.

There will be more information available later. Plan to get up a car load and go down. W. G. Sindt is coordinator for the Minnesota area.

- W. G. Sindt

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Visit our fine local commercial growers of our Iris Society in blooming season and with their help, you can pick out what you want. Don't worry about what is not locally grown. Our growers add new irises every year which you can find in their catalogs. Their knowledge of how to grow the best irises shows in their fine gardens. The high price of new introductions is due to the limited supply that only the hybridizer has.

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