



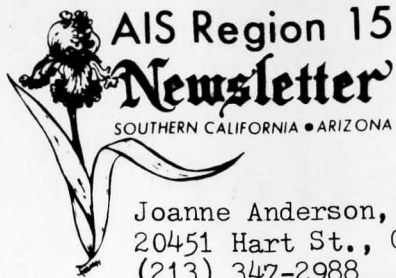
# AIS Region 15 Newsletter

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • ARIZONA



*the beautiful San Fernando Valley*

~ SPRING 1979 ~



Joanne Anderson, Editor  
 20451 Hart St., Canoga Park, CA 91306  
 (213) 347-2988

The Region 15 Newsletter is published in the Fall and Spring. It is distributed to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Southern California and Arizona and all members of affiliated clubs who support the Region with financial contributions. Annual subscription to other interested parties is \$1.50 per year.

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FRONT COVER:

An original drawing by Karin Gable



# A Word from the Editor

By Joanne Anderson

I hope you are planning to come to the beautiful San Fernando Valley April 27, 28 and 29th for the AIS Region 15 Spring Meeting and Garden Trek. We have received over a hundred registrations at press-time, so it looks like it's going to be a nice big party! I had a two page spread telling all about it along with pictures of all the principals on the committee to entice you to come (if you haven't already registered). But, alas, we have such lovely long articles that I had to sacrifice the space. Myrna Pollock's article about the adventures of the amorous casino queen will give you the idea. The story is reprinted from the Valley society's publication the Irisarian of last month.

Speaking of articles...be sure to read the two accounts of Region 15 in its formative years. Marion Walker (past AIS President) and Ralph Conrad have generously spent their time researching old publications and sharing their memories with us. They are interesting, informative and warm with remembering. The Fall issue will carry articles written by others who will bring us up to the present time.

Another news item that was relegated to the cutting room floor was the story about the San Fernando Valley's Winter Show (probably the only one in the country last January). There were enough horticultural entries to qualify it for an AIS sanctioned show--and the Artistic Arrangements section boasted fifty entries. It was a beautiful show with some very well-grown specimens. The star of the show was Myrna Pollock with seventeen blue ribbons! The Aril Show at the Arboretum last weekend saw newcomer Claire Hood win the silver medal and Myrna got the bronze! Congratulations to them both. That show offers really stiff competition.

# RVP Message

It's appropriate that the theme for this issue, "Our Beginnings," should come at a time when I am making my start as your new RVP. This "breaking in" phase is usually the difficult part, as it is with any job, but with your patience and cooperation this Region will continue to grow and move ahead as we have done in the past.

I have an address change as of the middle of March. Ray and I have sold our house (to a fellow irisarian, aren't we lucky?) and have moved to Vista, not far from where we were. New address is 1130 Cypress, Vista, CA 92083. Or you can always reach me at the Farm, 418 Buena Creek Rd., San Marcos, 92069. I'm there every day, and that's where my files and typewriter are. Please feel free to contact me at any time there is a Regional matter you care to discuss.

Many members in our Region complained to me that they did not receive their AIS Fall Bulletins, but the one to notify is the AIS Secretary, Carol Ramsey. She will then send one out to you immediately, as she had to do for the entire Las Vegas bunch. Obviously there are sacks of Bulletins sitting in a snow bank somewhere, or in a dark corner of a post office, or whatever. But don't just grumble among yourselves, let Carol know!

Although we are a year away from 1980, there are some dates for next year that are important for you to know about now. In order for you to set your show dates with the malls, etc. The '80 Regional Spring Trek will be hosted by the San Diego, Imperial Counties Iris Society on April 25, 26; and the AIS Convention to be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma is set for April 29 thru May 3. This will no doubt result in a rash of shows the same weekend, April 19th, throughout our Region as has happened this year and happens whenever the National Convention coincides with our bloom seasons here. A word to the wise show chairman...Line up your judges early!

We are all looking forward to this year's

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## AUGUST PHILLIPS RECEIVES HONOR

August Phillips, noted iris hybridizer of Pacific Coast Natives, has received a scroll from the British Iris Society honoring him for his cultivar NATIVE WARRIOR.

It reads as follows:

"This is to certify that iris NATIVE WARRIOR, raised by Mr. Phillips, U. S. A., sent for trial by Mrs. M. Y. Brummitt, 30, Bloxham Rd., Banbury, Oxon., has this day been


HIGHLY COMMENDED

jointly by the Royal Horticultural Society and the British Iris Society. June 13, 1978

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Region 15 Newsletter adds congratulations to all the others August has received. Imagine! International acclaim, and during your lifetime...keep up the good work, August, the British have awarded their Dykes Medal to a Pacific Coast Native Iris; maybe the Americans will too someday!)

\* \* \* \* \*

Regional Spring Trek, hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society. That eager group has put much thought and effort into the plans, and have come up with a weekend that is sure to be fun, and be a big bargain to boot! Never again will you be able to get so much for \$25 in these times of escalating prices, the reason being that they are offsetting some of the costs themselves. This is not a requirement of hosting a Regional Trek, but they want to insure a big turnout and make their first Trek a memorable one for all of us. Let's not disappoint them. Plan to attend!

  
Janice Chesnik  
Regional Vice-President  
Region 15  
The American Iris Society

## LIST OF JUDGES IN REGION 15

### LIST OF REGION 15 HYBRIDIZERS AND WHAT THEY GROW

### LIST OF REGION 15 COMMERCIAL GARDENS AND WHAT THEY SELL

### LIST OF REGION 15 AMATEUR (Non-commercial) SPECIALISTS

By Robert Paul Hubley

## REGION 15 JUDGES FOR 1979

- H - Honorary Judge
- S - Senior Judge
- G - Accredited Judge
- A - Apprentice Judge

### ARIZONA

- H DR. RAY C. ALLEN  
7570 E. Speedway, Lot 155, Tucson
- G MRS. JAMES R. DEREMIAH (Barbara)  
4122 E. San Miguel, Phoenix
- G MRS. DONALD DOPKE (Beverly)  
13433 N. 15th Dr., Phoenix
- G MRS. JOHN HARLOW JR. (Marilyn)  
10405 N. Gila, Tucson
- G MRS. GENEVIEVE H. JASPER  
2650 N. Desert Ave., Tucson
- S MR. HERBERT H. MCKUSICK  
P.O. Box 2567, Globe
- G MRS. RONALD E. McLEAN (Elsa)  
4941 Luana Dr., Tucson
- G MRS. HENRY PETERSON (Clara)  
1038 Franklin Ave., Yuma
- G MRS. NORMAN S. ROMERO (Katie)  
5711 N. Rocking Road, Scottsdale
- A MR. ROBERT J. STAUB  
3859 E. Clarendon Ave., Phoenix
- S MRS. J. W. TURNER (Pam)  
200 S. Porter Ave., Tucson

SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES

- G MRS. WALTER E. BUNKER (Penny)  
4721 Bancroft St., San Diego, 281-5027
- S MRS. N. R. CARRINGTON (Thelma)  
6283 Buisson St., San Diego, 281-5027
- A MRS. EUNICE CARTER  
P.O. Box 151, Jamul, 469-3938
- G MRS. VALERA CHENOWETH  
7606 Central, Lemon Grove, 469-0743
- G MRS. JANICE CHESNIK RVP  
418 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos, 744-3851
- S MR. RALPH CONRAD  
Rt. 2, Box 365, Escondido, 728-4759
- G Mrs. CHARLES FOSTER (Doris)  
850 Ora Ave, Vista, 727-0695
- G Mr. W. G. Gunther, 740 Crest Rd., Del Mar, 755-2798
- S Mr. LERTON HOOKER  
9564 La Mar, Spring Valley, 463-4370
- G MRS. MARGARET HOWARD  
2033 Oro Verde, Escondido, 745-6075
- G MRS. ELEANOR McCOWN  
P.O. Box 176, Holtville, 356-2476
- S MRS. PAUL NEWMAN (Grace)  
7450 Olivetas, D-17, La Jolla, 454-9840
- S MRS. EDWARD OWEN (Archie)
- G MR. JOSE C. RIVERA

RIVERSIDE & SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

- S MRS. REX BROWN (Alta)  
585 Castille Dr., Hemet
- S MRS. HARRY B. FREY (Kathleen)  
6275 Hawarden, Riverside
- S MRS. HOWARD GOODRICK (Ruth)  
1355 S. Lyon #37, Hemet
- A MR. HOWARD GOODRICK  
1355 S. Lyon #37, Hemet
- S MRS. DICK HADLEY (Dessa)  
9938 Magnolia, Riverside, 689-2358
- G MRS. J. E. TEARINGTON (Kay)  
13902 S. Manor Dr., Hawthorne, 676-7371

THE AMOROUS ADVENTURES OF A CASINO QUEEN

(Or, Ain't Nothin' to Keep You  
From Coming to the Trek, Is There?)

By Myrna Pollock

It all happened OUT WEST. MISS KITTY, the LUSCIOUS CASINO QUEEN, sat under the SINGING PINES of the PONDEROSA, harboring a HIDDEN SECRET and looking like a THUNDERCLOUD. To do her JUSTICE, she had good reason. An EMISSARY had just told her that her DREAM LOVER, the FRONTIER MARSHALL, had run off with a local HEARTBREAKER, the BONANZA BELLE. Poor MISS KITTY! There she sat, her DECOLLETAGE heaving with MIXED EMOTIONS--for let's face it--things had certainly taken an UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT. You might even say a DEVILISH turn!

Why, only last week, in an IDYLIC tryst near TUCSON, hadn't her erstwhile BOY FRIEND turned on the FLATTERY, calling her his "BLOND GODDESS," "SWEET PATOOTIE"--and even "EASY GRACE," though why the last she couldn't IMAGINE, since her name was Kitty. Hadn't he even gone so far as to describe their EVENING FROLIC as "SUPREME BLISS," and finally, promising to make her a "HAPPY BRIDE"?? HARD LUCK!--that he would wind up taking the MIDNIGHT SPECIAL out of town with that PAINTED WITCH, blasting forever her DREAM OF LOVE. She told herself, with her usual keen INTUITION, she'd always run a clean COFFEE HOUSE up there on the BIG BONANZA, having been a CHOIR GIRL in her youth. While that LOVE BANDIT--that --that--WILY DELILAH!--was nothing but a WELL-ENDOWED GO GO GIRL! Why, the whole town knew she'd got her start in a CHORUS LINE, had been a Playboy CENTERFOLD IN THE BUFF, no less!--to say nothing about her career as a TOPLESS DANCER! But, then--reflected poor MISS KITTY, men would do anything FOR PLEASURE. Nevertheless, her BLUE REFLECTIONS caused her to quiver with RAGE from the PINK FRINGE on her CHAPEAU to the hem of her BLUE PETTICOATS. In a fit of DARK FURY, she tore her SPANISH LACE handkerchief to shreds and ground her PRICELESS PEARL necklace to bits under her heel. So agitated she became, she lit THREE SMOKES and took an unlady-like belt of FIREWATER from the hip flask she cannily kept concealed in her LACE PETTICOAT.



Just as things were getting REALLY WILD, a ROUGH RIDER came galloping over the horizon. IMAGINE her surprise to discover the rider was an OLD FLAME, none other than the notorious WENATCHEE KID, the TAMPICO BANDITO, fresh from the calaboose in MEXICALI. Leaping from his PALOMINO, this DASHING CAVALIER greeted her with a BREATHLESS KISS on her HOT LIPS. "Say, BIG DADDY," she gasped, "Aren't you the LATIN LOVER I dated back in SAN LEANDRO?" "Si, Senorita," answered the kid, "I am that hombre. AAAME!--he added, "what MIDNIGHT MADNESS that was! CARAMBA!! My leetle AMAPOLA--how we danced the TROPICAL NIGHT away under an AUGUST MOON--WALTZING till the BREAKING DAWN--scarfing up thees MARGARITA and TEQUILA SUNRISE."

"Now just hold it, BLAZING SADDLES," she snapped. "You don't LIGHT MY FIRE anymore--in fact, my BURNING DESIRE has turned toward another SINFUL PAPA."

"Wow!" exclaimed the Kid, with a TOUCH OF ENVY, "Thees is UNEXPECTED. Tell me, Senorita, who may the LUCKY NUMBER be?"

"SORRY CHARLIE," said MISS KITTY, sadly. "Right now I'm in a MOOD INDIGO. Boy, AM I BLUE? I feel like LADY LOVELORN since my ONE DESIRE vamoosed OUT YONDER."

"PRAISE THE LORD!" cried the Kid. "Let's celebrate! Look, my DAINTY DOVE--I've brought thees AMIGO'S GUITAR--I cheer you up with a LILTING MELODY. How's about a SPANISH STREET SONG, huh?"

"Somehow," said MISS KITTY, wiping her RED EYES, "I'd like to try ANOTHER WORLD." Then, brightening a bit, she added, "HEY, LOOKIE! Why don't we take the HIGH ROAD for TINSEL TOWN?--I hear they're having a CELEBRATION down there. We could take the SKY CLIPPER and be there in time to WHOOP EM UP with the rest of the INNER CIRCLE."

"Ah, my leetle TACO BELLE," grinned the Kid, "I know not of what you speak, but any GAY FIESTA or FOOLISH PLEASURE sounds muy bueno to this hombre!"

"Now you're cooking," cooed Kitty, coyly patting the CRUSHED VELVET of her CRINOLINE, and re-arranging her PINK FEATHERS boa. "It's an IRIS fiesta, and everybody who's anybody in the whole WILD WEST will be ON THE GO in that direction--even, I hear, the FRESNO CALYPSO."

"TU TU MUCH!" cried the Kid. "In that case, my ENTICING leetle HOT TAMALE, let's BLAST OFF for the WESTERN SHORES. FOLLOW ME, Senorita!"

Whereupon, the two of them leaped upon his STORMY SPALLION and dashed off in HOT PURSUIT towards MORRO BAY under an ORANGE WONDER of a PACIFIC MOON. By the CINCO DE MAYO, or let's hope, by the Twenty-seventh of April, they should arrive in the San Fernando Valley, where a WARM AND TOASTY welcome from each WESTERN HOST and WESTERN HOSTESS awaits them.

MORAL: Don't be a DODO and miss the Region 15 Spring Meeting and Trek! Hasta la Vista!!

## TUCSON IRIS SOCIETY

By Marian Rogers

The potluck Dinner at the home of Rick, Nan and Russ Gum was such a happy occasion. Rick was a super auctioneer!

The Rhizome Sale at Porter Gardens a success, Porter Gardens was a very nice choice. It drew only those interested in buying rhizomes and it afforded many comforts for workers. Our heartfelt thanks to members who brought in the beautiful rhizomes. It was an offering to be justly proud of. We were sold out before 4 o'clock.

## SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

By Joan Smith

Sun Country members are looking forward to a beautiful trek with our Western neighbors.

I put in a drip irrigation system experimentally for growing 30+ Louisianas and it looks like this is paying off. I feed through the system also and am anxious for the bloom season as all are doing much better than those not on a drip system in the Valley. Our group would welcome letters from our California neighbors who have tried a drip irrigation system.

Our club meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Valley Garden Center; as the weather warms up a bit, our attendance increases. With a cold wet winter, things are a little late but promise a colorful spring with all the rain.

Cont'd. on page 34



# San fernando Valley Iris Society

A.I.S. REGION 15 SPRING MEETING  
AND GARDEN TREK

Hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society

## REGISTRATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration fee:

up to April 20, 1979--\$30

up to April 25, 1979--\$35

Registration closes April 26, 1979

AMOUNT OF CHECK \_\_\_\_\_

If paying for persons other than yourself,  
please list names and addresses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you staying at the Sheraton-Universal  
Hotel? \_\_\_\_\_

To make reservations, write the hotel at  
3838 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, CA  
91608 or phone world-wide toll free  
reservations number (800) 325-3535. Please  
be sure to mention the American Iris Society  
for reduced rates: Single, \$28; Dbl., \$33.

Are you staying at a motel, hotel, pvt. home?  
(Please circle one)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

## FIRST TWENTY YEARS OF REGION 15

As Recalled By

MARION R. WALKER

Past President, the American Iris Society

My first contact with the iris world was in the fall of 1937 when I ordered some iris plants from the Cooley Gardens in Silverton, Oregon. The next spring the Milliken Gardens in Altadena were visited and I met Don and Carl Milliken. They told me about the American Iris Society and enrolled me as a member in 1938.

On April 22, 1939, the American Iris Society held their first meeting in Southern California. It was called the California Trek. The leaders of AIS at that time were Dr. Harry H. Everett, President; Mr. William McKee, Vice-President; and Mr. Junius Fishburn, Treasurer. They were all present and I had the pleasure of meeting them at that time. It was quite a thrill for a young man just out of college to meet the leaders of the iris world. At least it made a lasting impression as I look back forty years later.

At the time of the California Trek in 1939 all of California was in Region 14 and Region 15 was Canada. As a result of the trip to the west coast the Board of Directors decided it was advisable to divide California into two Regions. The records indicate that Mrs. F. E. Riebold of Pasadena and later Corona del Mar was Regional Vice-President of all of California in 1938. In 1929 the Region was divided and Mrs. G. G. Pollock of Sacramento became RVP of Region 14. Mrs. Lena Lothrop of Alhambra became RVP of the new Region 15 and Canada became Region 16.

During the California Trek we visited the Milliken Gardens, the gardens of Mrs. Kenyon Reynolds of Pasadena and finally the garden of Mrs. Riebold where I met Mrs. Lena Lothrop.

Mrs. Lothrop was a very strong willed person who was not afraid to express her opinions. I think it was largely through her effort that Region 15 was born. She was very strongly of the opinion

Mail to: Treasurer Myrna Pollock  
17921 Ingomar St.  
Reseda, CA 91335  
Phone (213) 345-8889



that the leadership of AIS was not showing enough interest in the West and in particular Southern California. She was a prolific writer for the Bulletin and kept the East well informed about what was happening in the West. A decade or more later when I became a member of the Board some of the Directors were still smarting from the sting of Lothrop darts.

All in all Lena Lothrop did much to get Region 15 started and served as its RVP for the first five years of its life. She was a loyal supporter of the Region until her death some years later in San Bernardino.

In 1940 W. J. McKee became President of AIS and the last of the Annual Meeting Treks was held across the country. The approach of World War II caused great uncertainty about the future.

The Southern California group of accredited judges met on March 9, 1940, at Claremont. As the gathering was breaking up, someone suggested the formation of a Southern California iris society, not as a substitute for the Region, but as a possible feeder to it. Mr. J. N. Giridlian was elected President; Mrs. Ruth Milliken, Vice-President; Mr. Capeller, Secretary; and Mrs. Lothrop, Advisor. The first meeting of SCIS was held June 15, 1940 with fifty members present. Among those present were the C. G. Whites, the Carl Millikens, the Donald Millikens, the E. H. Brenans, the J. N. Girdlians, Mr. Capellar, Mrs. Lothrop and the Marion Walkers.

By this time World War II was upon us and President McKee postponed all Annual Meetings of the Society for the duration. In 1943 Jesse Wills was elected President of the Society by mail, there being no transportation available for iris meetings during the war. In the Region the meetings were limited to one meeting in Claremont with those able to secure enough gasoline attending. The guest speaker was Eric Nies who was fast becoming famous for his spuria breeding.

Mrs. Lothrop in her 1944 Regional report indicates that Dr. Franklin Cook and Dr. L. F. Randolph visited the gardens of C. G. White in Red-

lands. Both men were very enthusiastic about the oncocyclus seen there. Mr. Carl Taylor and Rev. Fred Taylor both had fine seedlings. Mr. Carl Milliken had his usual group of fine seedlings and some of Eric Nies' seedlings were being tested for introduction. It was also noted that Mrs. Elsie Heimer and Mrs. Gertrude Stuetzel had very fine displays of some of the Eastern varieties of irises in their gardens in the San Fernando Valley.

In 1945 Eric E. Nies became our second RVP. Mr. Nies was in failing health at the time and he called upon Miss Archie McLean, President of SCIS to make his annual report for the Bulletin in August, 1945. Miss McLean reported on the iris season with shortened gas rations. The gardens of Clarence White, Carl Taylor, Mrs. Barry Dibble, Mr. A. H. Heller, Rev. Fred Taylor, Mrs. Elsie Heimer, Mrs. Gertrude Stuetzel, Miss Elma Miese, Mr. Eric Nies, Mr. Carl Milliken and Mr. J. N. Giridlian were visited. The season was closed with a meeting June 9th at the Girdidlian Gardens with 70 members of SCIS present which included 16 judges.

Eric Nies in his 1945 Regional report planted a seed that developed very rapidly a decade later. He said, "Our season was nearly perfect and though the Pogons provided the bulk of the display, the Apogons are receiving more and more interest. In fact I am inclosing notes on Sibericas from Mr. Giridlian, on the Louisiana Group from Mr. Roy Fielding, and on the California Group from Mrs. Stuetzel." Some years later when I became President of the Society sections were formed with special emphasis on these groups and others.

1946 ushered in Gertrude Stuetzel as RVP. During the next few years more gardens developed in the San Fernando Valley and the center of activity moved northward from the Redlands-San Bernardino to the San Fernando Valley. Mrs. Stuetzel's garden was in Canoga Park. David and Mildred Lyon opened their commercial garden in Van Nuys. Mrs. Douglas Pattison closed her commercial garden in Illinois and moved to Sherman Oaks. Mrs. Elsie

## REGION 15 FALL MEETING



JACK BOUSHAY congratulates new Region 15 officers Myrna Pollock, Vice-Chairman; Janice Chesnik, RVP; Helen Hostetler, Secretary.

INLAND IRIS SOCIETY hosted the Region 15 Fall Meeting in Hemet last October. Mem- came from all over California and some from Arizona. Floyd Wickenkamp, the new Treasurer, came but disappeared while the pictures were being taken--we'll catch him next time. Many thanks to Inland's President Bob Hubley for such an interesting and very pleasant day.



AUGUST PHILLIPS, Elsiemae Nicholson (who conducted Judges' Training Session), guest speaker Jack Boushay and Mrs. Boushay.

Photo by Nelson Nicholson



ANOTHER cook book sale for Joanne Anderson of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society as Region 14 RVP Elsiemae Nicholson inspects her purchase and Doris Eader waits to buy her copy of the Hungry Irisarian.

Photos by Nelson Nicholson



CELESTE HAMNER gets everyone's complete attention as she distributes the door prizes she and Bernard donated. RVP Bob Brooks assists as Lucienne Brooks and Jack Boushay hope their names will be called as winners.



## LANDSCAPE USE OF NATIVE IRIS AS GROUND COVER

By Frederick C. Boutin

Two extensive plantings of Pacific Coast iris in the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California, have proved the value of these iris as groundcover and landscape subjects. The plantings, each about twenty years old, are associated with camellias and other plants of similar requirements and each receives light to heavy shade.

Easily accessible to visitors is the planting along the exit walk from the Bonsai Court and Zen garden. Here Pacific Coast iris form a meadow-like area under and around large camellias, cherries, bamboo and Coast live oak. The irises have the admirable quality of absorbing the considerable litter of small to medium sized leaves. Under large-leaved shade trees they might be less successful in this.

The second planting is in an area closed to visitors but it can be viewed from the roadway north of the Garden Pavillion in the upper end of the Japanese Garden canyon. Here Pacific Coast iris are planted on a steep north-facing roadcut bank, roughly six feet high by one hundred feet long, shaded by a high canopy of live oak. Irrigation comes from seepage and overspray from sprinklers on camellias farther up the slope. The iris provide an attractive year-round low maintenance cover for the bank and, of course, a highlight of flowers in the spring. Pacific Coast iris are shallow rooted and, if planted on a steep bank in soil looser than this, may need retaining with wire mesh while becoming established.

These plantings are the successful result of the interest and work of William Wylam, for many years a head gardener for the Huntington and now retired. The stability and low maintenance of these plantings and their attractiveness emphasize that Pacific Coast iris have many desirable qualities as landscape subjects.

(Sincere appreciation to Mr. Boutin and Olive Rive, editor of the Region 14 Bulletin, for allowing us to reprint this article. Ed.)

## EARLY DAYS OF REGION 15

By Ralph Conrad

Any reflection on the "Early Days" of Region 15 of the American Iris Society would need be intertwined with the Southern California Iris Society, which represented all of its named area. The Region as a dominant force was to begin somewhere in the 1950's. This piece fairly well concentrates on the prior fifteen years or so.

Iris enthusiasts tend to have a common beginning. The shock of seeing an initial "modern" iris planting motivates the purchase of somewhere around a dozen varieties and a benign insanity (my own definition) takes hold of the rabid few whose interest and devotion then spans the rest of their lives.

Being among the so afflicted, my first awakening to iris was on a visit to the early commercial garden of Carl Milliken on New York Avenue in Pasadena. While the coloring was essentially in the lavender-to-purple range and the plants mostly or all diploids, the mass effect was sufficient to nudge my first step down the sawdust trail.

The first purchase was from Cooley Gardens in Oregon, and the bonus plant was a superb (for then) yellow named TREASURE ISLAND. I am satisfied it was named for the location of the San Francisco Fair of 1939.

So, the initial disease symptoms and the approximate date are established, at least.

Of the early gardens visited, the following are listed not necessarily in the order of being best. There were a limited number overall, both gardens and members.

Carl Milliken later established a superb iris showplace on Colorado Blvd., the massive iris plantings framed by conifers and flowering trees, predominately crab apples. His pink blend CHINA MAID and big yellow FORT KNOX come to mind as seen there among his increasing number of introductions (the plantings were essentially from his own breeding program) but I do vividly remember the first

encounter with a truly red iris, the collected Louisiana Iris BAYOU VERMILLION.

A yearly trek to see the "oncos" at Clarence White's garden on Smiley Heights overlooking Redlands was a highlight I will always relish. A large planting of the seedlings he had grown from seeds purchased from the Near-East, these were the most exotic iris I ever hope to see. To attempt to adequately describe the intricate forms and exquisite colorations is beyond my ability. I hold the view that the so-called oncobreds, while having special value, never quite equalled the original purebreds, most of which were destroyed in the furnace on the first hint of mosaic disease. He had a sharp eye for this and it was not unusual for one so afflicted to be dug quickly, even as we were admiring it. But at least the oncobreds (note that I disdain using the coined word aril) lived on and have added value to the bearded sections in breeding programs.

To me Clarence White's SUSAN OF HILLY, NELSON OF HILLY, and particularly OYEZ are worth trying to grow again, if plants can be found. He was generous with seeds and plants, sometimes entire clumps. Many of tried to grow them (the purebreds) but it was a losing proposition. This is not to suggest that a few enthusiasts did not continue, and they have my admiration for their determination. Does anyone still grow JOPPA PARROT, one of the multi-colored "fancies" that was such a standout among his early crossbreeds?

The first hint of Flamingo Pink development was noted in the commercial garden of Elsie Heimer, located in the then countryside of Encino, a block south of Ventura Blvd. This gracious lady's later home garden in Sherman Oaks was on every iris fancier's list to visit. She grew the very best tall bearded iris, was most discriminating in her selection, keeping the older ones until she was satisfied that a new one was a genuine improvement. Of the Flaming Pink bearded, the first named variety I recall in her commercial garden was named MELITZA. I oftentimes would wonder what my non-iris friends would think if I should enthuse to

them of my encounter with MELITZA, the beauty with the pink beard.

Eric Nies' home garden in Hollywood was of particular interest because of his Spuria and Douglasiana iris plantings, most his own seedlings. He had become the Regional Vice-President and in addition to being a most charming man, was of primary influence in keeping the Hollywood Iris Show going (more on this later). In the first recalled Southern California Iris Society meetings he would be called upon to fill members in on the latest American Iris Society news.

While in the Redlands area a side visit was made to the Edward Brennan home, where iris plantings were between rows of orange trees. Several noteworthy tall bearded introductions came from his breeding activity.

In San Bernardino, the Carly Taylor and Lena Lothrop gardens were trek musts. Both served as RVPs, the latter being the very first (I was recently reminded by Archie Owen) when the region was formed. Both were important iris hybridizers of the period. Mrs. Lothrop was considered the most knowledgeable about iris and few if any came close to winning a debate with her on the subject. Her iris were grown in what appeared to be pure sand, but did reasonably well.

The first organized iris show was, strangely enough, put on by the Hollywood Garden Club, at Plummer Park. Iris growing individuals brought in specimens for competition and strong participation in mass display was furnished by commercial growers but it was the garden club's show, and a good one.

The inevitable, however, occurred, some years later to be copied by SCIS. Each show was ever "improved" and enlarged, until finally HGC outdid itself by hiring 'professionals' at ghastly expense to stage a grandiose one with expensive backgrounds and all the trimmings. Result was financial disaster, a loss figure in the neighborhood of \$4,000 hard money. That ended its iris show.

A select few in SCIS led by Eric Nies made the hard decision to take it over. Its treasury

MINUTES of AIS Region 15 Membership Meeting

Oct. 7, 1979, Hemet, CA

The meeting was called to order by Regional Vice-President Bob Brooks at 9:37 a.m. Attending the meeting were Penny Bunker, Exhibitions Chairman; Joan Smith, President Sun Country Iris Society; Duncan Eader, President Southern California Iris Society; Floyd Wickenkamp, nominee for Treasurer; Myrna Pollock, nominee for Vice-Chairperson; Joe Del Judge, Membership Chairman; Virginia Del Judge, President San Fernando Valley Iris Society; Janice Chesnik, Vice-Chairperson; Bob Hubley, President Inland Iris Society; Joanne Anderson, Newsletter Editor.

RVP Brooks dismissed reading of the Minutes due to the absence of the Secretary, Marilyn Harlow. He also dismissed the Treasurer's report due to the absence of Treasurer Dena Daugherty.

There was a brief discussion about mailing labels and the problem the Region will have getting them now that Don Hayworth has moved to San Francisco and won't be providing them any longer.

Membership Chairman Joe Del Judge reported all going well. He has new leaflets advertising AIS for anyone who wants them.

Exhibitions chairman Penny Bunker reports that all is well with her committee. Two garden clubs down in the San Diego area are including iris sections in their shows.

RVP Brooks reported that Judges' Training Chairman Barbara Serdynski had resigned. He noted that the Region has a number of openings for new judges.

Publications Chairman Joanne Anderson reported that the Fall 1978 Newsletter had been sent to nearly 700 people--members and non-members of the Region as well as AIS officers, chairpersons, RVP's and newsletter editors all over the country. This very large mailing is in compliance with the Executive Committee's vote to allow the Newsletter enough money (up to \$600 per issue) to mail it to all iris enthusiasts who belong to AIS Societies and clubs whether affiliated with AIS or not. The purpose is to acquaint people with the activities and objectives of the American Iris Society and thereby increase membership.

Janice Chesnik, speaking in of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Iris Society, invited the Region to its Fall 1979 and Spring 1980 Meetings and Garden Trek in the San Diego area with that Society as hosts. The Executive Committee voted to accept the invitations.

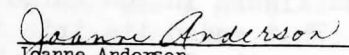
Duncan Eader brought up the matter of joint AIS and Section membership. The Aril Society desires to remain separate from AIS and other sections. He stated that when sending in section dues to be sure to send them directly to the sections and not to the AIS membership chairman.

RVP Brooks appointed an audit committee to check the books before the new Treasurer takes over. The committee consists of Janice Chesnik, Floyd Wickenkamp and himself.

It was announced that copies of "What Every Iris Grower Should Know" is available at a very nominal cost. It is available through Dorothy Howard, AIS Librarian, Tulsa, Okla.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joanne Anderson  
Acting Secretary

MINUTES - AIS Region 15 Executive Committee Meeting

Oct. 7, 1979, Hemet, CA

The meeting was called to order at 1:50 p.m. by President Bob Hubley who welcomed us on behalf of the hosting Inland Iris Society.

Bob Brooks, Region 15 Vice-President, introduced affiliated societies present and guests--iris folks who have recently moved into Region 15--Ruth and Howard Goodrick, Rex and Alta Brown and the Mohr brothers, David and Kenneth.

Announcements included the news that the Hammers had provided door prizes for the occasion. Joe Del Judge, Membership Chairman, told the clubs that new AIS recruitment fliers are available by writing to Dorothy Howard, AIS Librarian.

Symposium results revealed that seventy-eight ballots had been cast by one hundred and four members. Winners were as follows:  
1. GYPSY BELLE (49) 2. NEW MOON (48) 3. BRIDE'S HALO (38)  
4. SHIPSHAPE 5. WHITE LIGHTNING 6. KILT LILT 7. MYSTIQUE  
8. (tie) MARY FRANCES and ORANGE EMPIRE 9. (tie) AVALON BAY and  
BABBLING BROOK 10. GOING MY WAY 11. CASCADE PASS 12. WALTZING  
WIDOW.

RVP Brooks introduced Mrs. C. F. (Lois) Joris of San Pedro and congratulated her on her new status as Senior Judge.

Elsiemae Nicholson, Region 14 RVP, invited everyone to the Region 14 Fall Meeting on Oct. 21st at Lake Shasta. Mrs. Nicholson had conducted the judges' Training Session earlier in the day. She announced that the Region 14 Symposium voting showed the top favorites there to be 1. MYSTIQUE 2. GOING MY WAY 3. NEW MOON.

Archie Owen, Chairman of the Nominating Committee (which included Duncan Eader and Beverly Dopke) presented the nominees for the following offices: Regional Vice-President, Janice Chesnik, San Diego and Imperial Counties Iris Society; Vice-chairman, Myrna Pollock, San Fernando Valley Iris Society; Secretary, Helen Hostetler, Inland Iris Society; Treasurer, Floyd Wickenkamp, Sun Country Iris Society. There were no nominations from the floor. The Committee's slate of officers was approved unanimously by the membership.

Jennie Hopson (who chaired the By-laws Revision Committee) asked for and received a standing ovation for RVP Brooks for his efforts to remove "politics" from the Executive Committee.

Guest speaker was Jack Boushay, hybridizer from Washington state.

George Hood of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society, Trek Chairman for the Region 15 Spring Meeting and Trek in April 1979, enthusiastically invited everyone in the Region to come to the San Fernando Valley for the festivities. Dates are April 27, 28 and 29, Friday, Saturday and alternate gardens on Sunday. Registration fee is \$25.00 until March 30th and \$30.00 until April 15th.

Penny Bunker of San Diego and Imperial Counties Iris Society, invited all to attend and participate in their Fall Show at the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park, Nov. 19th. All are invited to enter.

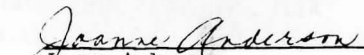
RVP Brooks thanked Inland Iris Society for hosting the meeting.

Bernard and Celeste Hamner presented the door prizes, irises from their garden--mostly all their own introductions.

Sixty-eight AIS members attended.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joanne Anderson  
Acting Secretary



SAN DIEGO AND IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY  
 CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY AT BANQUET



Photos  
 by Olive Rice

SHARING A DRINK and a friendly chat  
 are Eleanor McCown and Sanford Rob-  
 erts.



ENJOYING the party  
 are Laverne Conrad  
 and her mother Mrs.  
 Cosgrove (Clarke  
 Cosgrove's mother  
 too).



ALL SMILES! Ray and Janice Chesnik,  
 Bob and Lucienne Brooks and George  
 Waters smile for photographer Olive  
 Rice (Mrs. Waters).

SAN DIEGO and IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

Photos  
 by  
 Nelson  
 Nicholson



MR. AND MRS. RUNDE greet guest speaker Elsiemae  
 Nicholson shown here with Doris Foster.



REGION 14 RVP  
 Elsiemae Nich-  
 olson visits  
 with Region 15  
 RVP Janice Ches-  
 nik and Archie  
 Owen who serves  
 AIS as a Director.



PENNY BUNKER confers with Bob Brooks and Valera  
 Chenoweth.

Cont'd. from page 6

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY (L. A. County Cont'd)

G MISS JOANNE ANDERSON

20451 Hart St., Canoga Park, 347-2988

A MRS. MYRNA POLLOCK

17921 Ingomar St., Reseda, 345-8889

G MRS. CLIFFORD WELBORN (Evangeline)

4109 Camellia Ave., North Hollywood, 762-0042

VENTURA, SANTA BARBARA, SAN LUIS OBISPO & KERN COUNTIES

G MRS. MARY N. HOSKINS

15 Holtby Road, Bakersfield

G MRS. FRANCES KUHS

1903 Lake Street, Bakersfield

G MR. ROY L. SYLVIES

4620 West Ave. k-12, Quartz Hill, 943-2649

G MRS. ROY L. SYLVIES (Debbie)

4620 West Ave. K-12, Quartz Hill, 943-2649

S MR. COLLIE TERRELL

926 Maple Ave., Wasco

H MR. MARION R. WALKER

2751 Poli St., Ventura

REGION 15 COMMERCIAL GARDENS and WHAT THEY SELL

CORDON BLEU FARMS

418 Buena Creek Road

San Marcos, CA 92069 phone (714) 744-3851

Specializes in Tall Bearded, Medians, Siberians,

Spuria and Louisiana Iris. Also Daylilies and

Succulents. Also Rebloomers.

HAMNER'S IRIS GARDEN

960 N. Perris Blvd.

Perris, CA 92370 phone (714) 657-3501

Specializes in Tall Bearded Iris. Also Rebloomers

MCCASKILL GARDENS

25 South Michillinda Ave.

Pasadena, CA 91107 phone (213) 793-4677

Specializes in Pacific Coast Native Iris

George Stambach's

SUNNYCROFT GARDENS

of Pasadena, CA

As requested by the late George Stambach, his

entire stock of Pacific Coast Native Iris seedlings

in cans, as well as his fifty favorite plants in the ground, have been moved to the Longview Iris Gardens. (See below)

Bob Hubley's

LONGVIEW IRIS GARDENS

9230 Colorado Ave.

Arlington, CA 92503 (Riverside) phone (714) 689-1795

REGION 15 HYBRIDIZERS AND WHAT THEY GROW

ARIL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

P. O. Box 2567, Globe, Arizona 85501

CORDON BLEU FARMS

418 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos 92069

Introduces Tall Bearded, etc.

BERNARD HAMNER

960 North Perris Blvd., Perris, CA 92370

Hybridizer and Introducer of Tall Bearded

Iris.

JOHN HOLDEN

1319 Gateway Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Hybridizer of Arilbred Iris.

LERTON HOOKER

9564 La Mar St., Spring Valley, CA 92077

Hybridizer of Tall Bearded Iris

ROBERT HUBLEY

9230 Colorado Ave., Arlington, CA 92503

Hybridizer and Introducer of Pacific Coast

Native Iris

MCCASKILL GARDENS

25 South Michillinda Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107

Introducer of Pacific Coast Native Iris. Also,

Jack McCaskill and Vern McCaskill have register-

ed a number of Pacific Coast Native Iris of

"unknown parentage."

HUBERT MCKUSICK

P.O. BOX 2567, Globe, AZ 85501

Hybridizer of Arilbred Iris and Arils.

- G MRS. BERNARD HAMNER (Celeste)  
960 North Perris Road, Perris, 657-3501
- G MR. ROBERT P. HUBLEY (Past RVP)  
9230 Colorado, Riverside, 689-1795
- S MRS. LOIS K. JORIS  
1116 H Street, San Bernardino, 885-1130
- S MRS. GEORGE W. NELSON (Maebelle)  
3764 Harrison, 689-1583
- A MRS. E. L. ROBERTS (Clare)  
1309 N. Pleasant, Ontario, 986-2612
- G MR. MARK E. ROGERS  
12176-8th, Yucaipa, 797-8034

ORANGE COUNTY

- G MR. RICHARD A. BASLER
- S MR. CHARLES R. HOPSON

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- S MR. THORNTON ABELL  
469 Upper Mesa Rd., Santa Monica, 454-7320
- S MRS. POLLY ANDERSON  
4810 Palm Drive, La Canada, 790-2109
- G MRS. ALAN W. DENNEY  
477 Upper Mesa Rd., San . Monica, 459-1621
- G MR. DUNCAN EADER  
111 W. Magna Vista Ave., Arcadia, 447-0033
- G Mr. WILLIAM HAWKINSON  
4414 N. Cogswell Rd., El Monte, 444-0136
- S Mrs. WILLIAM HAWKINSON (Marguerite)  
4414 N. Cogswell Rd., El Monte, 444-0146
- H DR. LEE W. LENZ  
Claremont
- AMR. ROBERT J. PARKER  
26 45 Longwood, 938-1712, Los Angeles
- S MRS. G. M. ROACH, SR. (Lura)  
2931 Tyburn, Los Angeles, 664-6888
- H MRS. BARBARA SERDYSKI  
3433 Laclede Ave., Los Angeles, 662-7804
- G MR. RICHARD J. SLOAN  
2607 Louise, Arcadia, 447-7866

DAVID MOHR and KENNETH MOHR  
4862 Corwin Lane, Riverside, CA 92503  
Hybridizers of Tall Bearded Iris.

MARK E. ROGERS  
12176 Eighth St., Yucaipa, CA 92399  
Hybridizer of Arilbred Iris, etc.

REGION 15 AMATEUR (NON-COMMERCIAL) SPECIALISTS

CORRINE BROMBERGER  
530 West Sunset Drive, Redlands, CA 92373,  
Phone: (714) 793-4370  
Sells Tall Bearded, Arilbred, Median and Dwarf Iris

THE INGOMAR IRIS PATCH--Myrna Pollock  
17921 Ingomar, Reseda, CA 91335 (213) 345-8889  
Display Garden. Mostly TBs and little ones.

MRS. M's IRIS GARDENS--Marge Malone  
6057 Shoup, Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
Phone: (213) 340-2441  
Commercial.

DAISYLYN'S EVERBLOOMING IRIS GARDEN--Daisy and  
Jack Bennie  
6459 Matilija Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91401  
Phone: (213) 785-7968  
Rebloomers. Hobby Garden.

SYLVIES IRIS FARM--Roy and Debbie Sylvies  
4620 W. Ave. K-12, Quartz Hill, CA 93534  
Phone: (805) 943-2649  
Commercial Garden. All varieties--especially  
fine collection of arils.

REGION 15 GARDENS FOR VIEWING (ONLY)

SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDENS  
1212 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
Has a large collection of Pacific Coast Native  
Iris growing in natural surroundings--a vast hilly  
terrain with many trees indigenous to the area.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN of the Native Plants  
of California  
1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, CA  
Phone: (714) 626-3922  
Dr. Lee W. Lenz, Director

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM  
Box 688, Arcadia, CA 91006



## REGION 14 FALL MEETING AT LAKE SHASTA

By Dave Ross

Region 14 of the American Iris Society had their Fall meeting October 21 at Lake Shasta. Ethel and I thought it would be a pleasant trip so I sent in for reservations. Unfortunately, I was a little late so I didn't get confirmation and instructions before we left. We were expecting to stop at Melrose Gardens, and hoped to get the necessary information from Ben Hager. However, this was also forgotten in the business of acquiring Japanese iris. On the way again, we realized that we were going to a meeting--definite destination unknown. If you were ever foolish enough to get yourself into that position, you will know that this is quite an unsettling feeling.

At breakfast, just outside of Redding, we asked our pretty young waitress if she knew of an Iris Meeting at Lake Shasta. She gave us a blank look, and said, "You might try Bridge Bay," and proceeded to tell us how to get there. It was worth a try, so we followed her directions, and within twenty minutes were in view of a marina and a cluster of resort shops. On a short rise, there was a restaurant called "Trail of the Whale." We parked the van and went inside. There, just inside the door was a bulletin board announcing, "Welcome, American Iris Society." I won't say it was fool's luck, but you can use your own judgement.

We were there for the meeting and a lecture by Lorena Reid on Beardless Irises. Then there was a luncheon of Chicken Salad in a bed of fruit, consisting of one quarter of a pineapple, and stacks of mellons, orange sections, and apples. It looked like a Hawaiian feast. Afterward there was a plant sale, and ticket drawing, to raise money. We now had two Siberian iris and one Louisiana to take home, as well as the Japanese iris already stashed away in the van. The meeting came to an end with several announcements. I



DESERT IRIS SOCIETY  
April 20 & 21                      Tri City Shopping Center

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY  
April 20, 21 & 22                  Topanga Plaza

SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY  
April 7 & 8                          Carlsbad  
April 21 & 22                      Balboa Park

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY  
April 21 & 22                      Eagle Rock Plaza

SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY  
April 13 & 14                      Chris Town Shopping Center  
April 20 & 21                      Valley National Bank Center

TUCSON IRIS SOCIETY  
April 21 & 22                      Christopher City

\* \* \* \* \*

had an opportunity to tell the members about our Spring Iris Trek, and the sale of cook books and chances on the comforter. Everyone dispersed quickly after that and I only had a chance to sell two cook books.

We took the ferryboat across the lake to the Shasta Caverns--along with 23 other Iris members. We had a very entertaining driver who took us up the tortuous mountain trail, to the entrance of the cave. The scenery outside was idyllic and inside the cave, quite awesome. We made the acquaintance of some new people, and saw many old friends.

Cont'd. from page 13

Heimer, the Ralph Conrads and Clarke Cosgrove, Mrs. Laura Burbridge and others had their gardens in the Valley. At the same time the White, Taylor, Milliken, Nies and Walker gardens were still a big attraction during the iris season. And Tom Craig, the artist from Time Magazine was starting to breed thousands of irises on Mt. Washington.

The year 1947 brought a new AIS President in Dr. Franklin Cook. The season with us was not the greatest. I shall quote Carl Taylor, "The vagaries of the weather veered from frost on April 3rd to temperatures of 105 in the shade soon after, then an unusually late 'Santa Ana' which lasted four days, followed by a rain and hail storm." Need I say more about the 1947 season? (Santa Ana=big wind, Ed.)

1949 Saw Judge Guy Rogers become President of AIS. During that season our RVP Gertrude Stuetzel was confined to her home with illness and Mrs. Douglas Pattison prepared the report for the Region. The usual gardens were still on the trek this year with Lena Lothrop's Esquire and Mildred Lyon's Char-Maize seeming to draw the most attention. One of the final days of the trek was spent at the Walker Lemon Ranch in Ventura.

1950 Was a wild year. Carl Taylor became RVP and I started out on a Congressional campaign. During the campaign Eric Nies came to me and asked if I would serve as a Director of the American Iris Society. There was a vacancy on the Board by resignation. This was a distinct surprize and a great honor for a person not yet thirty-five. I told Mr. Nies I would be happy to serve if I was not elected to congress. You know the answer to that because at the Fall Board Meeting of AIS I was elected a National Director without seeing an iris all season.

During that season an article appeared in the Bulletin written by Dr. Corliss calling the four great hybridizer's of our Region fabulous. Fabulous they were! When we look back on the work of Clarence White, Carl Milliken, Eric Nies and Tom Craig and consider what that work has meant to the iris world and in particular Region 15, we cannot help saying,

"They're Fabulous."

At the Spring Show this year it was reported that there was a growing interest in Douglasiana Hybrids and the extensive use of the fine new spurias developed by Eric Nies. It was noted that the San Fernando Valley is fast becoming a commercial growing center and that the growers had good displays at the show and in their gardens. This in addition to the continuation of the good gardens of past years.

Miss Archie McLean became RVP in 1951 and Eric Nies received the Hybridizer's Medal of the American Iris Society. The iris world knew Eric Nies chiefly because of his work with the spurias but this was not his only interest. He worked with Tall Bearded, Louisianas and the Pacific Coast Natives. The importance of his work lies in the fact that beginning with species, in a field practically untouched by others, he brought into these lovely irises a new color, a hybrid vigor, size and greatly improved form. Mr. Nies passed away on January 29, 1952, and his work was left to others.

1953 Saw Harold Knowlton become President of AIS and I became Vice-President and Chairman of the Awards Committee. The next few years were the busiest I have spent in the iris world. It was at this time that the office of Second Vice-President was established by the Board and Mr. W. F. Scott Jr. was elected to that office.

A court of Honor was established at the Southern California Iris Show. This Court of Honor displayed all of the irises produced in Region 15 that won an H.M. or A.M. from the American Iris Society. The hybridizers honored in this event, arranged by Jennie Hopson, were Clarence White, Eric Nies, Carl Milliken, Tom Craig, E. H. Brenan, A. H. Heller, Lena Lothrop, David Lyon, Elma Miess, Mrs. Douglas Pattison, Carl Taylor and Marion Walker. For a number of years this exhibit was one of the outstanding features of the show.

Gertrude Stuetzel was back in again as RVP in 1953. In her Annual Report she indicated a good season in spite of a winter with some snow in Redlands. At this date in history there was an iris society thriving in Santa Barbara. They

reported having a fine show.

We continued our shuffling of RVPs with Miss Archie McLean returning again in 1954. At the January meeting of SCIS I had the distinct pleasure to present the Hybridizer's Medal to Carl S. Milliken. The program following the presentation was one of particular interest to those present. Dr. Lee Lenz of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens and Chairman of the Beardless and Species Committee of AIS spoke on "Embryo Culture of the West Coast Species." Dr. Lenz illustrated his talk with specimens of SANTA ANA and SANTA PAULA which had recently been introduced.

This season saw the introduction of Iris Munzii to AIS members in an article written by Clarke Cosgrove, Lee Lenz and Jennie Hopson. To illustrate the article is a picture of Munzii with a young elementary school boy admiring it. This lad, the youngest member of Region 15, was Philip Edinger, whom you all know as the recent editor of the Bulletin.

Archie McLean reported a very busy season in Region 15 in 1954. The SCIS met as usual, the Santa Barbara Iris Society, the Fallbrook Iris Society and the California Iris Society all had meetings with Dr. Ball of UCLA speaking on iris diseases to SCIS and President Harold Knowlton speaking to the Santa Barbara group. The 15th Annual SCIS show was held at Plummer Park with President Knowlton as one of the judges.

As a prelude to the 1955 season we were honored with a visit from past President and Mrs. Jess Wills. The members of the Region gathered for a dinner meeting and enjoyed a talk by Jesse about his experiences in growing iris. This is the year we were grooming for the Annual Meeting of the American Iris Society to be held in Los Angeles in 1956. All gardens in the Region were at their best during the season and hopes were high for a great convention April 25-29, 1956.

The 1956 season turned out to be one of the most exciting seasons in the history of our area. First of all Miss Archie McLean became Mrs. Edward Owen. Thus we had a bride for RVP.

Secondly the Board of Directors of AIS passed a motion in November of 1955 to activate the Eric Nies Award in 1956.

Thirdly, the Board of Directors of AIS accepted the resignation of Dr. Fitz Randolph as chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Society and appointed Dr. Lee Lenz of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden as the new chairman.

Finally, Marion R. Walker from Region 15 was elected President of the American Iris Society. He being the first person west of Texas to hold that office.

If this were not enough...The Convention was yet to come.

"Bienvenidas a la Ciudad de la Reina de Los Angeles!" was the heading of the program for the Convention. Mrs. Archie Owen was the Convention Chairman. Mrs. Jean Stevens, the famous New Zealand hybridizer, was the banquet speaker. The gardens visited on the tour were the Walker garden in Ventura, the Craig Garden in Escondido, a visit to the famous Mission at San Juan Capistrano, in the San Gabriel Valley we visited the George Murray Garden, the Owen Garden, the Cosgrove Garden, the Hopson Garden, the Kennedy Garden and the Milliken Garden. In the San Fernando Valley we visited the Lyon Iris Gardens, the Syllmar Garden of Elma Miess and the garden of Laura Burbridge. Those who had their own transportation were able to see the gardens of Mrs. Heimer and Mrs. Pattison who were not on the tour.

In her Annual Report Mrs. Owen stated, "The activities in this Region for the year were all pointed toward April 24th, when we greeted some three hundred eighty-nine guests registered for the Convention." The usual meetings were held by the Centinela Valley, Fallbrook, Southern California and Santa Barbara societies within the Region.

After the Convention year Mrs. Owen retired as RVP and Dr. Clarke Cosgrove replaced her. It was in this year of 1957 that we lost our great friend and iris breeder Clarence G. White at the ripe old age of 88. Mr. White was a pioneer in iris breeding and one of the stalwarts of the



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NEWS!! Sun Country is undertaking to set up a directory of iris grown by members. At present we are working on a card file listing Louisianas, Spurias, Aril and Arilbred, and Tall Bearded.... the latter will start with those varieties from 1975 on, Dykes Medal winners and antiques. This project should be beneficial for the judges to see how a particular variety does in this area as well as for the members who are trying their hand at hybridizing. I have taken the responsibility of getting the Louisianas listed. I'm also interested in articles on Louisiana in the Southwest and would welcome information from Region 15 members who are trying their hand at hybridizing. I will pass this information on to this special interest group. I'm hoping the other groups will follow suit and get local special interest groups going for the other varieties.

\* \* \* \* \*

Region from its very beginning.

It seems fitting that we come to the close of this first twenty years in the history of Region 15 during the term of Clarke Cosgrove as RVP because he had a major part to play in the activities of the second twenty years. For he, too, was to become a National Director and President of the Society nearly twenty years later.

There are many others that could and should be mentioned in this history. They have all done their part but are not at the point of recall or in print. Many of the leaders in the Region at the present time were just beginning to get involved during the 1956 Convention. They have come on to be the leaders today. But their's is another story and I shall leave it for another who is far more qualified than I to write the history of the second twenty years.

Marion R. Walker  
March 9, 1979  
Ventura, California

SPACE CITY IRIS TIME, HUNTSVILLE '79

Huntsville, Alabama

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AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

May 1-5, 1979

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS:

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Phone (205) 837-3250

HOTEL RATES:

Single. . . . .	\$22.00
Double (2 people, 1 bed). . . . .	28.00
Double (2 people, 2 beds) . . . . .	30.00
Double (3 people, 2 beds) . . . . .	33.00
Double (4 people, 2 beds) . . . . .	36.00

Please make reservations directly with the hotel. State that you are attending the AIS Convention. All rooms blocked for the Convention which are not reserved by April 16, 1979, will be released to the general public on that date. Therefore, be sure to make your hotel reservations early.

REGISTRATION FEE

Received before April. . . . .	\$75.00
Received from April 1 to April 20. . . . .	80.00
Received after April 20 . . . . .	85.00
Make check payable to "1979 AIS CONVENTION"	

Mail registrations to: Mrs. Ruth Wilder  
2219 Matthews Street, SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
phone (205) 533 4809

There will be no partial registrations. If it is necessary to cancel a registration, a full refund is assured if notice is received by April 20, 1979.

Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be furnished to the greatest extent possible. If such transportation is desired, send name, date and time of arrival and flight number to Mrs. Evelyn Lucas

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## LONGVIEW IRIS GARDEN

Specializing in Pacific Coast Native Iris  
and featuring introductions of

Dr. Lee Lenz            Joe Ghio  
Bob Hubley             Jack McCaskill  
George Stambach       Doris Foster

GEORGE STAMBACH'S IRIS--One section of Longview Iris Gardens has been set aside for a Stambach Memorial Garden, from which any introductions made will be in George's name. To further perpetuate George Stambach's iris in other gardens, a selection of his seedlings in 1-gallon cans will be offered at a Special price of \$2.00 ea. (plus tax).

SIERRA SAPPHIRE--Dr. Lee Lenz' SIERRA SAPPHIRE in 1-gallon plastic pots, in bloom, will be available at a Super-Special price of \$5.00 ea. First come! First served!

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(66 varieties):

EARLIER INTRODUCTIONS--From \$3.00 ea., in bloom.

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### OPEN GARDENS

The Longview Iris Gardens will be open for sale and/or viewing of Pacific Coast Native Iris from April 1st thru May 31st (their prime blooming season):

Fridays and \*Saturdays    1 p.m. thru 5 p.m.  
\*Sundays                    10 a.m. thru 5 p.m.  
Mondays and Wednesdays: 10 a.m. thru 5 p.m.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays:    Closed

\*Exceptions: I'm Judging at the San Diego Iris Show on April 21st. I'm attending Region 15 Iris Trek on April 28th.

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was skimpy, dues were 50 cents per year and the thought or organizational iris sales was down the road in time. Some thirty members were prevailed upon to advance ten dollars each (maximum--rich and poor alike) to fund the undertaking. Gertrude Stuetzel, who well may have been RVP then, handled the finances and did it expertly. I would guess that these records, including the canceled repayment checks, came into my possession while I was SCIS treasurer. I still have them, having been unable to place them otherwise and not ever coming to the point of destroying them. At any rate, with a 50 cents show admission, the first endeavor netted around \$32, basic materials were now paid property, future shows assured.

Among the early commercial exhibitors, whose efforts were most impressive and important, were Milliken Gardens, Tom Craig--who might have just moved from Mt. Washington area to the wilds of Northern San Diego County, Meiss Gardens of Sylmar, Lyon Gardens of Tarzana, and Laura Burbridge Gardens of Reseda.

Show set-up began on Friday morning with some staying on without sleep until the following night show closing. Among these was LaVerne Conrad, who provided food for the weary workers, including the Craig clan, arriving near midnight with a carload of bloom stalks, children hungry and cold. Plummer Park was fairly isolated from eateries, so food was also sold to the public in attendance. Profit was greater than from admission charge, it is recalled.

The lunch room kitchen was a popular gathering place and netted some help. Memorable to LaVerne was Wiloh Wilkes telling her that her husband, Tom, needed something to do to slake his boredom due to his lack of interest in iris things. This was also her first recalled meeting with Ben Hager, who boomed out that a stronger person should be pounding the meat for swiss steak and promptly took over the task.

A good history about SCIS has been published for the society by Clarke Cosgrove and Jennie Hopson, so the above should suffice for this piece.

It is only right that people memories become

more pronounced than the iris themselves. Of the many dear ones, a few others bear mentioning. It was Clarke Cosgrove who introduced me to iris. His devotion to the iris family, plant, people and organizations was so intense that his family was sometimes concerned. LaVerne joined in iris interest and activity--her men's hobby would also be hers.

Eric Nies initiated a long phone conversation with LaVerne about iris things and the utter necessity of young people joining and, more importantly, staying in the organization. It was the night before he entered the hospital and not surviving an operation, as he knew he wouldn't. It's still a critical subject, burned into our minds.

It was Gertrude Stuetzel who appointed me an iris judge. The basis then was, as I recall, observation of a person's interest, participation, learning ability, subject intelligence and staying power...the last not the least important. I learned to better judge by serving with Elsie Heimer and Ida Mae Pattison who had retired to Sherman Oaks after running the successful Quality Gardens, a highly profitable iris operation in Illinois. Her reputed profit threw many an unexpected person into such a hopeful gauntlet. Most learned it to be a hard row to hoe.

In our garden today are iris grown primarily for memory sake of early iris friends. Among them are one of Mrs. Lothrop's seedlings, simply called LOTHROP DAR, Brennan's RUFFLED ORGANDY, Taylor's GOLD RUFFLES and WHITE RUFFLES, Meiss' DESERT TWILIGHT and MAJORETTE, Nies' AMIGUITA and early introduced Spurias. It's something we will probably continue as long as we are able to.

It is utterly presumptive to suggest that human nature soars heavenward upon entering the iris world. Yes, there have been personality clashes, squabbles, pouting, angry exits and the such. Some are quite humorous, looking back. There was this offshoot, unabashedly calling itself the California Iris Society, a Centinela Valley based one-woman band called Schmidt (I'm not positive of the name, but that's not impor-

tant) that got some attention and support for awhile until the bandleader, along with the treasury, disappeared.

Judging had its lighter moments like being seriously asked to drive to the boonies to see someone's super duper seedling, and many times being ushered along endless seedling rows to pick out award winners, a demand to be one of five judges (then necessary for an HM) to view and vote for a seedling (it got less than the five votes and this was considered an affront), giving an honest opinion of an iris in a meeting where judges were asked to give a demonstration of judging technique resulting in groans of anguish from its breeder-introducer, unknown to be in the audience, and seriously judging a show consisting primarily of the old sprinkled-across-the-continent CRIMSON KING, this after a three hundred mile drive at that. It was a new iris group, not to be discouraged in its initial effort.

And then there was a trek highlighted by a rather heavy set lady falling headlong into and wiping out a top breeder's selected seedling patch, this from an attempt of overreach to pick-steal an orange from the tree. Not to be outdone, the next morning she called the local deputy and accused a visiting RVP of stealing a grapefruit from her display at the banquet. But, come to think of it, that was later than the time period chosen...and not even in Region 15.

As the initial paragraph indicated, there is an intertwining that diverts one from staying within the given subject, particularly when viewed through a 40 year windshield somewhat fogged. It's now time to go to the garden, bless the sunshine, curse the weeds in the iris beds and pay a visit to the first bloom of the iris season here. It's labeled SUBBIFLORA IRIS SPECIES, not quite as large a bloom but better coloring than CRIMSON KING.

And I forgot entirely to talk about the era of "pollen snitching." Now that was something to remember!



## RED - A SEARCH FOR TOMORROW

By Sanford Roberts

Red--that most illusive of colors to hybridizers, has been pursued since the introduction of DOMINION from Mrs. Arthur John Bliss of England in 1917. DOMINION was not a red iris. It was a deep blue-violet with velvety plush-like falls. DOMINION should perhaps be remembered as being one of the first tetraploids. A progression from DOMINION, produced in 1919, CARDINAL, which sold for \$45.00, and spurred the interests to produce reds among hybridizers. CARDINAL could barely be called a red, but it paved the way and became valuable as a tool for use in producing later reds.

Without chronologically tracing history and the search for a red iris since the year of 1917, let's briefly look at the list of Dykes' winners for a moment. A period from 1927, the inauguration of the awarding to the Dykes in America, to the current winner in 1978. Only two reds have been awarded the Dykes Medal...DAUNTLESS, 1929, originated by Clarence Connell of Nashville, Tennessee and THE RED DOUGLAS, 1941, Jacob Sass of Omaha, Nebraska.

By no means should there be cause for discouragement though. The American Iris Society's members have spent more time in pursuit of breeding irises and discarded more seedlings as a result of their endeavor than the sum total of all other seedlings combined that have produced all the cultivars that we know, and grow, today.

Two iris breeders that spent their entire hybridizing life in pursuit of the challenge for red were Mr. Paul Cook and Mr. Edward Greg Lapham, both of Indiana. Mr. Cook was a rural mail carrier, whose hobbies were nature and irises. Mr. Greg Lapham, a manufacturing firm official, raised poultry, irises and gladiolus as a hobby.

He was particularly interested in the creation of red irises and blue gladiolus. A banker, Mr. E. B. Williamson, also of Indiana, was another hybridizer who was also seeking red. Mr. Cook will

be, and has become, a legend for his recognition of what a small, certainly insignificant iris named PROGENITOR (Registered in 1951--not introduced), could and would contribute to the world of tall bearded irises. Of course, his 1962 Dykes Medal Winner, WHOLE CLOTH, could be the subject of many an article or talk on iris. It is safe to assume that Mr. Cook and Mr. Lapham both hybridized and discarded 100,000 seedlings each in their individual efforts to breed a red iris. Mr. Lapham, in his hybridizing efforts, pursued the seedlings of just one cultivar, to a total of 5,000 seedlings until he gave up in failure to produce something from that one cultivar of the day and times. Think about it--100,000 seedlings each in search of red. That's twice the amount of Joe Ghio's work thus far and he issued his 15th catalog in 1978.

What is a red iris? What is red as a color? We know it is genetically impossible to produce "The Red Iris," At this juncture, let's all participate, for a few minutes, in this "red" game.

Let's examine visually a portion of Fan 1, Red Group, Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, and Fan 2, Red-Purple Group. There are so many, many variations, or shades of red. Obviously, none of us like all of them and all of us see them differently--perhaps not even as red.

Let's ask ourselves these questions and reply to each one in a positive and objective manner:

1. Do you grow red irises?

If the answer is, "No." Why? In a simple statement.

2. List five red irises grown, if you now grow that many, or few?

3. Does the color of the beard on a red iris influence your like, or dislike, in any way? Think about this one very strongly--answer it--we'll also come back to colors of beards on red irises later.

In examining the challenge for red, we should

pay respect and acknowledgement to others who have vigorously pursued the red quest. Mrs. C. G. Whiting for GARDEN GLORY. Chet Tompkins' (living in Iowa at the time) for his DEFIANCE, and a continuing line of reds through the decades. Hans and Jacob Sass (previously mentioned), two brothers who were corn farmers in Nebraska. Tom Craig of California and Oregon. Dr. Hugo Wall, whose MINISA (1976) is currently a popular cultivar. Ted Muhlestein of Orem, Utah. Les Peterson, also from Utah. Eva Smith for her RED PLANET. Hazel Schmelzer of Walla Walla, Washington. Mrs. Reynolds for WONDERFUL ONE and ROYAL TRUMPETER. William Schortman for his SEEING RED. And, Robert Schriener of Oregon.

The American Iris Society, in recognition of the many hybridizers who relentlessly pursue the search for a red iris, established in 1963, the Cook-Lapham Bowl. This beautiful bowl honors Mr. Paul Cook and Mr. Greg Lapham, and particularly Greg Lapham, for his tireless work in search of red.

It is interesting to briefly review the iris that have won the Cook-Lapham Bowl from the establishment, until this award was discontinued with the awarding of the 1972 winner. 1963--CAPTAIN GALLANT (Schmelzer), 1964--JUNGLE FIRES (Schreiner), 1965--TOMECCO (Suiter), 1966 GYPSY JEWELS (Schreiner), 1967--FRONTIER MARSHALL (Schreiner), 1968--JEWEL TONE (Schreiner), 1969--WAR LORD (Schreiner), 1970--FIRE BALL (Schreiner), 1971--CALIENTE (Luihn), 1972--POST TIME (Schreiner).

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of the ten-year life of the Cook-Lapham bowl is that Tom Craig's fine introduction, BANG (1955) was the runner-up for six or more years for this distinguished award. It may have been a "soft" grower in many parts of the country, otherwise, I cannot conceive of the judges not voting it as a winner during its height of popularity. I don't know.

The AIS discontinued the award of the Cook-Lapham Bowl in 1972, along with the Clara B. Rees Cup, which was awarded to a white iris each year.

Most reds have been conventionally tailored. Red pigment has never existed in a tall bearded iris.

What we know as reds, or call reds today, are combinations of a purple anthocyanin and a carotene yellow. Surely, better branching and bud count are much desired improvements of the future. Perhaps ruffling and fluting (or frills, one might say), would do much to enhance reds. The world of red irises from 1917 to 1979--62 years--has seen many accomplishments from a non-existent red to some very red-appearing flowers of today. Many people start as a pollen dauber and evolve to a professional hybridizer, and fortunately, some of these pursue the red cause, the future is not altogether bleak.

Now, let's forget the hybridizer for a moment and consider the red iris from a viewer's standpoint. Reds are not easy to photograph. Do you like the color red and in what shade? Reds come from both the purple and orange (carotene yellow) sides and there is a variety of brown to tangerine beards. And, some, even though haft-marked, often become favorites. So, it may be the color, and the beard combination that appeals to one viewer, but not another.

Look at this candid photograph, taken in my "workshop" (garden) in 1976. These are red seedlings--all now discarded. Red irises are illusions and will always be cause for debate.

Would, or do we, want a red iris? Would it be pretty? It has been written that irises that had been lacquer-sprayed a geranium red were completely spoiled, as as all their other qualities were lost. We might also ask ourselves would we like a blue rose, a blue poppy, a blue chrysanthemum, or a yellow petunia or a yellow African Violet.

Back to the beards--question No. 3 on our self-examination of reds that we did earlier. Do we want a tangerine-yellow beard for contrast, or would we prefer a self beard on a red iris? The beard color definitely adds to our visual appreciation of a red iris.

What does the future hold for the red iris hybridizer? A million-to-one shot might be the answer. Certainly the continued breeding of the best red to the best red will continue to produce cultivars for future enjoyment. But, will these

have the desired vigor? Particularly here in Southern California gardens.

Here is the life work in chronicles of David Hall. From GOLDFISH (Wareham 1925) the first registered iris with a "tangerine beard" came the heralding of the Flamingo Pinks some twenty years later. There were a total of 39 Flamingo Pinks introduced.

From Paul Cook's vision of what PROGENITOR might offer came WHOLE CLOTH and the amoenas as we know them today. So, we can assume it will come from a mutant--maybe an insignificant appearing seedling--barely worth a second glance--will be, or held the hybridizing key, that will unlock the red door. The person must be able to recognize this mutant and put it to full advantage in a hybridizing program.

The hybridizing efforts must be the pursuit of a "dream." Just as Nathan Rudolph's pursuit of PINK SLEIGH began with the Orville Fay Seedling No. 39-02, continued through the crosses of BURGUNDY CHERRY (Royal Trumpeter X French Vanilla), "No!" On to FLAREUP X OSAGE BUFF, FLAREUP X ANON Reddest falls yet seen, but yellowish standards and the plicata genes must be bred out. And so it goes, this quest for the rare, the unusual, the brand new; is it a path we follow to the top of the mountain or an endless treadmill of trial and error?

Whichever view you take of hybridizing, it sure isn't dull, to wit the following hybridizers and their accomplishments: Jim Gibson, Robert Schreiner, Larry Gaulter, Nathan Rudolph, Joe Ghio, Keith Keppel, Dave Niswonger and so many more who are responsible for our current favorites and who are planting the seeds of tomorrow.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article contains the text of a talk given by Mr. Roberts to members of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society at their annual January Banquet this year. We sincerely appreciate Mr. Roberts' permission to print it here in the hope that it will inspire more interest in the search for the elusive red iris.)

GEN JASPER, Judges' Training Chairman  
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BOB BROOKS, Membership Chairman  
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