

Jan 1953

IRIS NEWS  
from  
your  
TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY

Hello everyone! Do you realize there are only 138 days left before its "Iris time".

This is the first bulletin of the Twin City Iris Society and has been created as a public service to our members. Nearly all of us have questions about iris that we would like answered and it is our hope that they may be answered on the pages of these bulletins. In addition, we will try to print articles of general interest, notices of meetings, varietal comments, cultural suggestions and official notices of our Society.

Officers elected at our first annual meeting last October were:  
President: Mr. G. W. Sindt; Vice Pres: Mr. E.C. Straub  
2nd. Vice Pres: Mr. Duane Foss; Secretary, Mrs. Esther Berger; Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. G.B. Gable;  
Treasurer, Mr. L. Franklin; Directors (two years) Mr. Ben Heg, Mr. G.B. Gable, and Mr. Nathan Burns.

\*\*\* NOTICE OF MEETING \*\*\*

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Theodore Virth Golf Club Chalet, on Victory Memorial Drive and Plymouth Ave. No. in Minneapolis. This will be a buffet style dinner meeting at \$2.00 per person. Our speaker will be the well known hybridizer, Mr. C. ET TOMKINS of Sioux City, Iowa, the creator of such beautiful Iris as Honeyflow, Cape Bon, the outstanding new peach pink, Apricot Supreme and many others. This promises to be a TERRIFIC meeting so for goodness sake DON'T MISS it. Mr. Tomkins is also bringing along some color slides of the newer iris varieties which will be shown at the conclusion of his talk. NO OTHER notice of this meeting will be sent you so remember the date, JANUARY 22ND. Invite your friends. Make your reservations TODAY by calling Mrs. Bud Foss, Or. 5-6188 or in St. Paul call Mr. Gus Sindt at V. 5032, or drop a postcard to Mr. Bud Foss, 830 Rand Tower, Mpls. 2, Minn.

#### REPORT OF DECEMBER MEETING

At our December meeting in the fascinating Ship Room of the Minnesota Savings and Loan Assn. St. Paul, we were treated to an informative talk on specie iris by our proxy, Mr. Gus Sindt of St. Paul. He is also an excellent story teller. As an aftermath of this meeting, two members, Bud Straub and Edythe Burns volunteered to obtain as much information as possible concerning the Louisiana specie iris. As neither Bud nor Edythe have ever seen a Louisiana iris, let alone grow one, they should have a most interesting report to give us at some future meeting.

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Did you know that the Bulletins of the American Iris Society are available to you at the Main branch of our public libraries in both Minneapolis and St. Paul?

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This space reserved for questions and answers.

Question: ?????????????? Please send your questions to  
Answer: !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Mrs. Edythe Burns  
1707 77th. / ve. North.  
Minneapolis 12, Minnesota.

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The following Committee chairmen were appointed at the December board meeting:

Show committee; Mr. Jos. Petzke. Program; Mr. Duane Foss  
Hospitality; Mrs. L.A. Wright. Publicity; Mr. Nathan Burns  
Publication; Mrs. E.M. Burns. Ways & Means; Mr. E.H. Moffet  
Membership; Mr. G.B. Goble

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#### SINGING THE BLUES

No edition of this bulletin could be complete without some varietal comments and recommendations of iris worth growing in this particular area. This month we are devoting this space to the Blue irises. Some of these are quite old and some are quite new, but all of them are wonderful performers here in Minnesota.

- BLUE RHYTHM:** This well branched, tall medium blue is most effective as a clump. Last year it was voted "Queen of the Show", at our annual show.
- BLACK FOREST:** A blue black that is neither tall nor large, but one of the best performers we have ever seen or grown.
- BLUE VALLEY:** A dancing blue of excellent substance, delightfully ruffled with almost horizontal falls. Everyone loves it.
- CHEVALRY:** Just a trifle darker than Blue Valley but with equally good substance and form. Highly recommended.
- SYVLA MURRAY:** A tailored light sky blue that is very clean and clear in color. Quite tall and most dependable.

SEA LARK: Violet blue with a shading of darker blue in the center of the falls. This iris has very good growing qualities and its distinct color and shape make it very desirable.

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In China and Japan, *I. tectorum* (a species iris hardy to winter climates) is cultivated on roofs; by some it is said to be for the purpose of warding off pestilence, others say that the object is to strengthen the thatch. Mrs. Hugh Fraser, in her book of Japanese tales, states how irises in Japan came to be grown on thatched roofs.

Once upon a time there was a great famine in the land and it was forbidden to plant in the ground anything that could be not be used for food. The frivolous irises only supplied the powder with which the women whitened their faces, but their little ladyships could not be cheated of that; "Must we look like frights as well as die of hunger?" they cried, and so every woman set a tiny plantation of irises on the roof of her house, and there in most country places they are growing still.

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#### THE MAJOR AWARDS FOR 1952 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

DYKES MEDAL: Argus Pheasant (DeForest)

#### AWARDS OF MERIT:

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Pink Sensation    | (D. Hall)    |
| Paradise Pink     | (Lapham)     |
| Zantha            | (Fay)        |
| Char Maize        | (Lyon)       |
| Jane Phillips     | (Graves)     |
| Sky Ranger        | (D. Hall)    |
| Ballet Dancer     | (Kloinsorge) |
| Russet Wings      | (Wills)      |
| Blumohr           | (Marx)       |
| Golden Russet     | (D. Hall)    |
| Felen Collingwood | (K. Smith)   |
| Melody Lane       | (D. Hall)    |

MORGAN AWARD (Siberian)

Eric the Red (Whitney)

CAROLINE AWARD (Dwarfs)

Astroviolace (collected)

DON'T FORGET THE DATE OF OUR BIG JANUARY MEETING: JAN. 22nd.

AMEN