

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. X, No. 7

September, 1962

There's a nip in the air, a crispness to the breeze that tells us that summer is almost over and fall is here. There is still a lot of garden work to do and a lot of things that can be done to make bigger and better iris gardens next spring. Our season of Twin City Iris Society meetings is about to start. The first meeting will be September 27 — Thursday, at 8:00 o'clock. The place is the Downtown Y.W.C.A. — our regular meeting place. The program is a varied and interesting one and I know we are all interested in getting back together after the summer recess. Here's more about the meeting from MayBelle Wright:

September 27 starts another season of regular monthly meetings of our society and we hope you will all make a special effort to be there. Our Program for the evening should have enough variety to please everyone a little and we hope it will please some of you a lot. There will be a BRIEF report on this year's hybridizing activities and a short report on our new test garden. At this point in the program, look for an interesting announcement of interest to the society.

We have two sound films ordered: the first, "Modern Roses on Parade" runs twenty minutes and the other, "Of Lines and Flowers" lasts forty-five minutes. The latter deals with arranging. These were loaned to us, free of charge, through the Minnesota Allied Florists Association.

Remember, we hope for a record crowd to get our fall season off to a flying start! See you at the Downtown YWCA at 8:00 o'clock.

... MayBelle Wright

Since our last News and Views a most successful Auction was held at the Apache Plaza. There was a fairly large crowd and lots and lots of iris for sale. It was good to see so many there and to find out that most had had a very good summer. While the acoustics weren't the best in the world, at least until the music was turned off, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and I know many got wonderful bargains. The whole society owes a great vote of thanks to those who worked so hard to make this annual affair such a bang-up success. Mr. G. B. Gable was chairman and Gus Sindt and our President, Glenn Hanson, shared auctioneer chores. There were many others who helped that night and in the preparations — so our grateful thanks go to each and every one of you. Also — to all who contributed the iris rhizomes and other plant material that was auctioned we are indeed grateful. It is this co-operation of the whole Society that makes this annual affair the success it is.

There will be a report at our meeting of the Auction Committee so we will know just what a success it was.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our latest and perhaps most impressive project has suddenly become a reality. I refer, of course, to our test garden. For several years we talked and thought and speculated about it in a rather half-hearted manner, and then, all at once, there it was. The translation of a fuzzy, tentative idea like this one into reality always

requires some sort of a motivating spark, and in this case the spark was our good friend, Mrs. Bakke. While the rest of us were still thinking in terms of some vague future project, she was doing the foot work. Then, when Mr. and Mrs. Rudser very generously made a piece of land available to us, the while scheme quickly assumed tangible shape, and there was our garden. Certainly the society owes a debt of gratitude to the Rudsers, to Mrs. Bakke, and to all the members of her hard working committee.

The primary purpose of our test garden will be to bring together and display in one place the best of the seedlings produced by all of our members. But it was quite natural that the number available this first year was far short of capacity. In the meantime, much of the unneeded space has been planted with the better and more valuable named varieties, most of which have been contributed by our members. It is anticipated that their increase will be sold at the auction next year, thereby letting the garden help pay its own way.

I think it is typical of the enthusiasm of this committee that plans for the future are already under way. To permit an evaluation of future expectations, all of our members who have been hybridizing are asked to report the number of seedlings they now have, their estimate of the number they may wish to enter in the garden next year, and the number of successful crosses they made this year. This information should be sent or telephoned as soon as possible to Mrs. O.A. Bakke, 5145 Golden Valley Road, Minneapolis 22. Her telephone number is JU 8-6919.

Mrs. Bakke also passes along these tips for those of us who will be planting seeds from this year's crosses. The planting should be done by October 1. The planting soil should be light and sandy to permit the seedlings to break through easily, with compost worked into it to hold moisture. She suggests planting in squares instead of long rows because it is easier to keep these small areas watered. A protective hay covering should be applied in the late fall.

G. F. Hanson, President

I want to urge all our members to become members of the American Iris Society. There are a great many benefits to be received through your membership, chief of which is the Bulletin of the American Iris Society which deals with every aspect of Iris culture and hybridization, not only of the tall bearded but of spurias, siberians, species, etc. Of especial interest are the varietal comments from the different sections of the country. From these we can learn which of the newer iris are the really good ones and which ones might do well in our climate. These bulletins are published quarterly and average 100 or more pages and are chock-full of interesting features.

Besides the Bulletin, each member receives a yearly membership list, lists of newly registered and introduced iris with their hybridizers, and a ballot for voting for the symposium of 100 best iris each year. Also, members receive lists of the winners of all the different awards each year. All of these things enable us to evaluate and grow our own irises better, further, by increasing our knowledge, increases our enjoyment of our hobby.

There are many other advantages one discovers along the way that we appreciate more each year we belong. The dues are \$5.00 a year and may be sent to:

The American Iris Society
2237 Tower Grove Blvd.
St. Louis 10, Missouri

or, if you would rather, I am sure our treasurer, Mr. G. B. Gable, 2543 38th Ave. So., Mpls., Minn., would be happy to take care of it for you.

Another advantage of more memberships from our area is the fact that we are allowed garden judges in proportion to the number of memberships in the area. The more judges we have, the more national recognition we will get. If we are to put Minnesota on the "Iris Map" this will be necessary.

I hope each member will consider and act to become a member. I am sure you will find full value received for your dues.

This clever little poem was in the July, 1962, Bulletin of the American Iris Society:

THE FLOWER HYBRIDIZER

Some people are happy to grow what there is,
But we want to grow what there ain't.
If we've ever seen it, it's surely no good;
It should be quite different or quaint.
Now a blue dandelion might look pretty nice,
Or a daffodil, sucking its thumb.
Those common old things as they always have been
Are only for folks who are dumb.
If beards come in yellow, we wish they were black,
Or if they are black, we want red.
We just cannot tolerate things as they are.
Do let us have something instead.
The bright shining stars of a few years ago
Are now so completely passé,
It's hard to imagine how anyone could
Consider them charming or gay.
A white marigold has been greatly desired,
As well as a yellow sweet pea.
The reason is simple. As far as we know,
Those colors don't happen to be.
The things that are short, we strive to make tall,
Those naturally large we develop in small.
This is listed as progress, but progress to what?
The progress is only to what we ain't got!

— Walker Ferguson