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- Norton (Jack) Burns
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At the April meeting, Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Gowan took us, via camera, on a most interesting visit to Japan. We enjoyed every bit of it and especially the comments on the customs of the Japanese people. One thing that impressed us was the information that in Japan the houses were numbered according to when they were built, number 1 house being the first built in a particular area, while house number 2 might be several blocks away. Again, house number 2000 could be standing directly next to house number 1, etc. etc. Just imagine the confusion in trying to locate any certain address. Before the meeting started, most of us were sitting around moaning about how hard we had worked during the day, everyone figuring they worked harder than anyone else, but after seeing Mrs. Gowan's slides showing Japanese women carrying concrete with which to build houses, and the men carrying buckets of water all day long up the sides of very steep hills, to irrigate their gardens, we all felt better and the next day probably saw more work done by our members than ever before in the history of gardening.

At a short business meeting, the coming iris show was discussed. Mrs. Elsie Peterson, regional A.I.S. vice president, suggested the T.C.I.S. provide the iris show judges with luncheon following the completion of the judging as is done in other areas. This was agreed upon.

At a meeting of the Board, held after the regular meeting, it was decided to continue the awards to the 4H clubs in both Hennepin and Ramsey counties and also to the 4H iris exhibit during the Minn. State Fair. (I'm not very familiar with this project but understand it has to do with the use of iris in landscaping.) The awards, in the form of iris rhizomes, total around \$15.00. In appreciation of his efforts in behalf of the Twin City Iris Society, the Board unanimously elected Mr. Jos. Patzke of Saint Paul to an Honorary Membership.

Also discussed at this meeting was the necessity of an amendment to the charter, making the editor of the News and Views an officer of the Society.

Report from our Foreign Correspondent

Included in the standard equipment of a kilted Scotsman, are three knives and one fork. (end of report)
(Editor's note) As it is possible to get a bad case of insomnia thinking about the above statement, we have brought it up now as it is a well known fact that irisarians don't sleep at this time of the year anyway what with the iris show and seedlings in bud etc.

"Against a foe I can myself defend,
But heaven protect me from a blundering friend!"

D'Arcy W. Thompson

Our show chairman, Mr Earl Maffett, informs us that he will ask most everyone to help in some way to set up the show. Actually its more fun than work! (We heard that last year it took five men to carry each milk bottle, and eight men to hold open the door while one of them carried in the tables.) Mr. Maffett was Dahlia show chairman last year and if that was an example of what he can do, we will have an outstanding iris show this year. It will be at the Minneapolis Savings and Loan Association building, Marquette Ave. at Eighth St. in Minneapolis on either June 5th and 6th or June 12th and 13th. As soon as the date is definite everyone will be notified and a show program mailed to them.

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There will be three major awards in the show again this year; the Minneapolis Saving and Loan Ass'n "Queen of the Show" cup plus two "Princess of the Show" trophies. As there are three horticultural classes namely the Open or commercial class,-- the Advanced amateur class,-- and the Novice amateur class, the Queen of the Show cup will go to a specimen from one class as being the best iris in the show. The Princess trophies will be awarded to the best iris specimens in each of the other two classes; so actually there will be a major award for each of the three classes. The Princess trophies may be either a Cup or a Vase, the winner to indicate his or her choice.

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Some terms used in describing new iris introductions

One new black iris is described as being, "well preened". ----- Another blue-black is referred to as being "saturated with ink", ----- There is a "trans-mundane" beauty listed- Oh, boy! ----- Several new iris are described as having "florets" instead of the conventional flowers. Our dictionary says a floret is a small flower or one of many tightly crowded small blossoms. (They probably know though) ----- One grower listed one especially for hybridizing then remarks that it hasn't been known to have set seed yet. Yipe!!! ----- Another says his defies description and then proceeds to do just that in about 150 words,----- One new gem is really remarkable because it "increases well, and it produces fine rhizomes which do not multiply excessively." ??? ----- A white iris "will produce seed only if pollinized by a congenial mate" tsk, tsk! ----- Here's another one that "threatens to deliquesce into a mist before ones very eyes" I studied the picture of this one very carefully and I believe it might at that. ----- And how about this description, "it has the complexion of a copiously frosted lemon pie". (how true) ----- On an older variety there appears this comment, "A rich eloquent, blue bicolor." Webster ~~was~~ defines eloquent as having or exercising the power of fluent speech. (This explains the strange noises heard in the garden last summer) ----- One ardent hybridist gives this peculiar description, "fluted and revoluted" Revoluted means tucked or rolled under. (He is obviously being honest in an eloquent, copiously trans-mundane way).

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Snappy Stuff

Try to take a few color pictures this year if possible. For 35MM slides the following lens openings are highly recommended: f/8 at 1/50 of a second; f/11 at 1/25th of a second; if you use a tripod so that the camera can be held steady, f/16 at 1/19th of a second is even better. These are for use on bright days.

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Legal Dept.

In the days of the homestead law a prospective settler sought out a lawyer friend and asked him to explain the law and its operations. "I dont know the exact text of the law," said his friend, "but I can give you the drift of it. The Government is willing to bet you 160 acres of land against your \$14. that you can't live on it five years without starving to death."

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20th, at Rutherfords Garden Store, 4995 Excelsior Blvd. Minneapolis. The meeting will get under way at 8:00 PM. and the subject under discussion will be the preparation of iris for the show. Pointers for selecting suitable stalks will be given by some of our more successful exhibitors and we understand that Mr. Gus Sindt will repeat his very capable demonstration of the right and wrong ways to transport your blossoms to the show. Someone will also give some tips to flower arrangers as well. The rest of the evening will be more or less of an informal nature. As usual our very competent hospitality committee will serve coffee and cake. Our May meeting has always been one of the most enjoyable of the year so dont miss it. We'll be looking for you.

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A few show tips

The best time to cut your specimen stalks is the night before the show. Choose freshly opened blossoms and of course the more blossoms on the stalk, the better its chance of winning. You should label your stalks as you cut them to be sure you dont get mixed up. The stalk should be in proportion to the size of flowers and sometimes you will find it necessary to cut the stalk off close to the ground. In any event it is better to have your stalks as long as possible, you can always shorten it if the need to do so arises. In collections it is of course better that all the stalks in each individual group be of uniform height, but it does not have to be so. If you have an iris that is not quite open enough for showing, you can usually get it to open nicely by bringing it into the house the day before the show and placing it in luke warm water. You must be sure though that it is showing color before you cut it. If the buds are tight when you bring it in the color will not be as good as it should be, in any event you can nearly always tell by looking at the buds if they can be forced in time to be shown. If your blossoms are freshly opened or in the process of opening, cut them, label them and place them in a deep container about one fourth full of cold water and store them in your basement overnight. As iris are very fragile you must be exceedingly careful in transporting them to the show. After you get your bloom stalks down to the show you will find it helps to wad a little tissue paper around the top of the milk bottle. This prevents the stalk from leaning and perhaps being damaged before it is judged. Incidentally, your entries must be in place and ready for judging by 10:30 AM. on the first day of the show. No entries will be accepted after that time and the only persons permitted in the exhibition during the judging will be the judges, their clerks and the show officials.

Luck

Little is the luck I've had,
And oh, 'tis comfort small
To think that many another lad
Has had no luck at all.

A.E. Houseman

Dont forget the next meeting! Thursday, May 20th, at Rutherfords, 8:00 PM.

Twin City Iris Society

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Dear Member:

This brief note is to advise you that the annual Iris show of the Twin City Iris Society will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 12th and 13th, at the Minneapolis Savings and Loan Assn. Building, Marquette Ave. at Eighth St., Minneapolis.

We are enclosing an official show program and several name tags with which to identify your iris bloom stalks. Should you need more tags, they will be made available to you upon your request at the show.

It is quite important that all persons exhibiting in either Section I (commercial or open class) or Section II (advanced amateur class) contact Miss Tracy of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, NEstor 4616, and advise her as to which of the classes within the Section you intend exhibiting, your failure to do however, will NOT disqualify you from showing. The purpose of registering is to enable Miss Tracy to complete a lot of the necessary preliminary work before the show. Exhibitors in all other Sections may bring their flowers to the show without advance registration.

Exhibitors are requested to use the side entrance on Marquette Ave., just South of the entrance to the Camfield Hotel. This door will be open for your convenience at 6:00 AM on the first day of the show and will remain open until 10:00 AM. There will also be several people in attendance during that period of time to assist you in every possible way, so if you have never shown before, this would be an excellent time to start.

Bottles will be furnished for all horticultural exhibits, arrangement classes however, must furnish their own containers as specified in the rules.

We have had a "sneak" preview of the ribbons and trophies that will be awarded and in our estimation they are really and truly worthy of your most diligent efforts. In addition to the ribbons and trophies, iris rhizomes will be awarded to first and second prize winners in Section II, and to all prize winners in Section III. Our hard-working show chairman, Mr Earl Maffett, has informed us that everything is in "apple pie" order and that this will be one of our best shows, but hastens to add that no show can be successful unless every one who has bloom stalks, exhibits them. So let's all get behind Earl and make this the best show ever.

In closing, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you the best of everything, and may all your entries be adorned with Blue Ribbons.

Very sincerely yours,

Edythe Burns, editor.