



Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

Newsletter March 1976

Volume III Number 2

CONTENTS

Cover.....NATIVE MUSIC (Ferguson 1968)

Letter from the President.....3

Nominations.....4

1976 Meeting of the SPCNI.....4

Check List Update.....5

Treasurer's Report.....6

Cordon Bleu Farms.....7

Ed's Page.....11

Executive Committee of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

President	August Phillips	557 E. Brett St. Inglewood, CA 90302
First Vice President	Mrs. Sven Thoolen	255 Manzanita Dr. Orinda, CA 94563
Second Vice President	Mrs. Jean Witt	16516 25th. NE Seattle, WA 98155
Immediate Past President	Ray Chesnik	413 Buena Creek Road San Marcos, CA 92069
Secretary-Treasurer	Charles Hopson	9081 East Drearte Road San Gabriel, CA 91775
Editor	Edward Pasahow	6235 Syracuse Lane San Diego, CA 92122

Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris Information

Membership: A member of the Pacific Coast Native Iris Society residing in the United States must be a member of the American Iris Society.

Dues: Annual: Individual \$4 Family \$5
 Triennial: Individual \$10 Family \$12
 Supporting Annual: \$5
 Life Membership: \$50 Honorary Life: NO DUES

Newsletter: Published biannually in March and September. Deadline for contributions to the next issue is August 30, 1976.

Double-spaced copy is preferred. The first copy of all issues is included in membership dues. Additional copies: Members \$1.50, Non-members \$2.50.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This will be my last President's Message. It is election year, and the Nominations and Election Committee's slate of new officers appears elsewhere in the Almanac. I have enjoyed the past years working with our favorite flowers and the people who grow them. There has been progress made in distributing plants that will survive in other states of the United States and in other countries. We have gained new members each month since the 1975 Convention in San Diego. Many of these members are from New Zealand, Australia, and Japan. Let's correspond with these members.

My seeds are planted but it has forgotten to rain. January has been very dry. No seeds have sprouted. My established clumps are doing well by irrigation. Usually I have bloom in January, but not one bud has shown this year.

The iris season is a busy time of the year with treks, shows and meetings. The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris has reserved April 3 for a get together at Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens. I plan to get there early to see all the garden, have lunch and attend the meeting in the afternoon. Francesca Thooleen and Richard Richards are planning the program. It will be a good one.

Many things have happened that I'll not be able to attend the National Convention at Lansing, Michigan this year.

May each of you see many new iris this season,

August Philips

NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee presents the following members of the SPCNI for officers for a two year term beginning July 1, 1976:

President	Mrs. Sven I. Thoolen
First V.P.	Mr. Richard J. Sloan
Second V.P.	Mrs. Jean G. Witt
Secretary	Mrs. Charles R. Foster
Treasurer	Mr. C. R. Hopson
Editor	Mrs. Olive Rice

From the By-laws, Article VI NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

Section 2. The Nominations and Election Committee shall present a slate of officers to the membership of the SPCNI in each election year. This slate, unless the members desire to make further nominations, shall be the officers for the ensuing term, without balloting. However, should the members make further nominations not later than April 15, there will be a voting ballot mailed to the membership. To make further nominations, one must obtain the signatures of five members in good standing as endorsement and mail the nominations to the Chairman of the Nominations and Election Committee, along with a written statement of acceptance by the nominee. The committee will there upon arrange immediately for an election by mail ballot. The ballots, to be counted, must be returned to the Nominations and Election Chairman not later than May 15.

1976 Meeting of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

The spring meeting of the SPCNI will be held at the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens, April 3. The program is not yet final. It is suggested that the morning be devoted to touring the gardens. Lunch on our own will follow and then there will be a gathering at 1:00 PM for the meeting and program.

Alamanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

CHECK LIST UPDATE

Entries from the 1974 and 1975 are listed below to update the SPCNI Checklist.

- ARNOLD SUNRISE (V. Humphrey, R. '75), 10", W/W8L0. White with light orange flash on center of F., tinge of lilac on tips when first opening. Blue hybrid x suspected Brummit CA sdlg.
- AUGIE (A. Phillips, R. '74), 10", bvW/bvW8R8r, S. white with slight overlay of lavender, F. same; red thumbprint blaze and hairline border. AMIGUITA x CLAREMONT INDIAN. Cordon bleu '74.
- BANBURY BEAUTY (M. Brummitt, R. '60), S. Linnegar '74.
- BANBURY FAIR (M. Brummitt, R. '69), S. Linnegar '74.
- BANBURY FESTIVAL (M. Brummitt, R. '75), 10", W/W8VR. White self with raspberry red spot. (I. douglasiana x I. innominata) x (I. douglasiana x I. innominata).
- BANBURY GNOME (M. Brummitt, R. '74), 12", 5LRV/DR, S. medium red, F. dark red, BANBURY VELVET x I. douglasiana.
- BANBURY MOON (M. Brummitt, R. '69), S. Linnegar '74.
- BANBURY PRINCESS (M. Brummitt, R. '72), S. Linnegar '74.
- BANBURY SNOWFLAKE (M. Brummitt, R. '74), 10", W/W, white self. (I. innominata x I. douglasiana) x (I. innominata x I. douglasiana).
- BANBURY VELVET (M. Brummitt, R. '69), S. Linnegar '74.
- BANBURY WELCOME (M. Brummitt, R. '64), S. Linnegar '73.
- BLUE BALLERINA (F. Knowles, R. '71), S. Linnegar '75.
- CANYON SNOW (R. Philbrick, R. '74), 17", W/W8Y. White self, yellow signal. I. douglasiana x unknown. McCaskill Gardens '75.
- CORRALITOS (J. Ghio, R. '74), 12", 5LRY0/5R8Y, S. apricot-rose, F. rose with small yellow thumbprint. NATIVE BORN x NATIVE MUSIC.
- COUNCILMAN (J. Ghio, R. '75), 10", PY/PY8V, Cream self, violet flush in center of F. GRUBSTAKE x CALIFORNIA NATIVE, EC '74.
- CRIMSON CUSHION (M. Brummitt, R. '68), S. Linnegar '74.
- FICUS (R. Johnson by L. Roach, R. '73), correction of name from "FISCUS".
- GARDEN DELIGHT (G. Stambach, R. '71), Foster Iris '75.

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

(CHECK LIST continued from page 5)

LAVENDER LILT (F. Knowles, R. '73), S. Linnegar '75.

LOS GATOS (J. Ghio, R. '73), Bay View Gardens '74.

NO NAME (M. Brummitt, R. '68), S. Linnegar '73.

PENNY PINK (M. Brummitt, R. '68), S. Linnegar '74.

PACIFIC MOON (B. Hager, R. '73), Bay View Gardens '74.

PASTORAL CHARM (D. Foster, R. '75), 15", PY7-5NR/5PY-R-5DR070Y, S. rich cream veined rose, smooth cream styles, F. cream overlaid rose and blue blend, decorated with fan outlined in rose-brown and veined gold, fluted.

PIQUE (T. Abell, R. '75), 12", W/W8BV, Withe self with blue-violet flash at center of F., Stambach white sdg. x (AMIGUITA x Lenz I. munzii hybrid).

RESTLESS NATIVE (J. Ghio, R. '75), 12", LR/DR, S. light red, F. dark red, CALIFORNIA NATIVE x VERDUGO.

ROMAR (C. L. McDonald, R. '75), 12" L5Y0/D5Y0, S. new copper, F. coffee or old copper brown.

WILDWOOD (A. Philips, R. '74), 10", RV/DRV, S. red-lavender, F/ very dark red-lavender, VERDUGO x unknown.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash on hand, July 1, 1975.		\$494.00
Dues	\$293.00	
Sale of back issues	5.00	
Iris sale	11.25	
	<u>\$309.25</u>	803.25
Disbursements for fall issue of Almanac	\$100.00	
Printing and Postage	8.51	
	<u>\$108.51</u>	
Balance		<u>\$694.74</u>

Charles R. Hopson, Treasurer

CORDON BLEU FARMS

by Dick Richards

Our southernmost Display Garden is Cordon Bleu Farms, the commercial garden of Bob Brooks and Ray Chesnik. Convention goers this past year will remember the garden vividly for its magnificent display of the Californicae as well as other beardless irises. Many an eastern iris fancier had an appropriate introduction to the Pacific Coast native iris at that time.



Ray (left) and Bob

The gardens represents the varied interests of the two partners in blended form. While our interest is in the iris grown there, Cordon Bleu also breeds and sells rare birds, and has a good display of cymbidium orchids. There is a story behind this, as fascinating as the two partners who blend their talents in this enterprise.

In 1969 Cordon Bleu started as a bird and iris farm. Ray contributed the interest in birds; at that point, by his own admission, he did not know any thing about plants, much less irises. Bob had been raising tall bearded iris for about a year. He had gotten his first iris from Lura Roach. He admits he watered these daily and thus lost most of them. He also purchased iris from Tom Craig, which he remembers came in a brown manilla envelope.

The first site for Cordon Bleu was in Carlsbad, California, but they moved to their present location in San Marcos in 1970. This land in San Marcos had not been entirely without an iris history, since Ben Hger had lived there while he had worked for Tom Craig. Making the move to San Marcos with the birds and the iris were a number of cymbidium orchid plants. The two had started raising these beauties for the cut flower market, but that did not work out as planned. They still grow and enjoy the cymbidiums anyway.

When the partnership first began, Bob was working in Los Angeles as an accountant, and commuting to the farm on weekends. As time has passed, Bob has spent less and less time working in

CORDON BLEU (continued)

Los Angeles and more and more time helping Ray, who has been the full-time horticulturist on the farm since the move to San Marcos. Now Bob works four or five days a month as an accountant in Los Angeles and spends the rest of the time at the farm.

Bob, who just assumed the office of Regional Vice-President for Region 15, comes from Carbondale, Illinois. He attended southern Illinois University, majoring in botany, but he quit during his senior year to join the navy. The termination of his military career found him in Los Angeles, where he attended Los Angeles State College at night, eventually earning a degree in Business Administration. This was a natural field for Bob to pursue, since he had been employed as a book-keeper for some time.

Ray had been out of the Air Force for just a few months when he and Bob met in California. Ray, from Cleveland, spent eight years in the service as a radar operator. For a city kid Ray took quickly to the fine art of iris growing, adding that to his talents as a bird breeder. Ray was the first president of the SPCNI, guiding the Society through its early crucial years. He is currently the president of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society, and he is the editor of the Regional Newsletter. If that were not enough, he is also the president of the Southwest Hemerocallis Society.

Cordon Bleu issued its first catalog in 1970. They first listed native iris in 1971, with the introductions of August Phillips, including the future Mitchell Award winner, NATIVE WARRIOR. They had been growing the Californicae in Carlsbad, but did not sell commercial until 1971. Now they have 30 or 40 named varieties in the ground, as well as many of Bob Hubley's seedlings, acquired when Bob was transferred out of the country several years ago.

As indicated by Ray's presidency in the Hemerocallis Society, both men are also interested in daylilies, and they first listed them in the Cordon Bleu catalog in 1974. Their listings were more extensive this year. This is a new direction for the farm to take, and both are excited by the prospects.

Cordon Bleu is also a Display Garden for the Spuria Society, and these iris can be seen in bloom there in the spring also. But San Marcos is a very choice location for growing the californicae, and the last AIS Convention amply illustrated this. Anyone wishing to see the latest hybrids as well as most older varieties will find a trip to 418 Buena Creek Road a very worthwhile excursion. While Bob and Ray are there most of the time to show visitors around, the policy of the farm has always been that everyone should feel free to browse and enjoy whether Ray and Bob are there or not, so any trip there in the

spring will be rewarded at least with a lavish display of native iris, and usually with the delightful conversation of either or both of the two partners.

The farm is easily reached from the San Diego or Los Angeles areas. The Deer Springs Road turn-off from highway 395 (Interstate 15), just a few miles north of Escondido, is one way. Proceed west to Buena Creek Road, turn right, and less than a mile up Buena Creek Road you will find the farm. From Interstate 5, to the west of the farm, take state highway 78 east and get off at San Marcos Boulevard. Proceed north to Mission Road, turn left. A long block up Mission Road will be found Twin Oaks Valley Road, where a right turn is needed. Buena Creek Road takes you to the farm less than a mile away.



Bob and Ray examining foliage on the natives.

Thanks to Dick also for the photos accompanying this article.

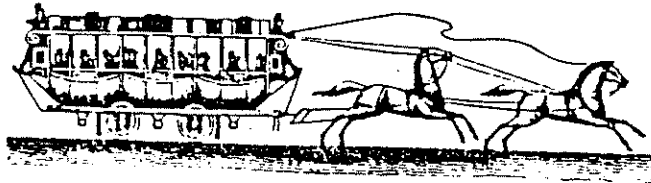
Ed.



The new editor will take over the sale of back issues and of course would be very happy to received articles for the Almanac. Please be patient if you order back issues as the records are turned over. The address is:

Mrs. Olive J. Rice
1914 Napa Avenue
Berkley, CA 94707

MOVING?



If you are changing your address or have any questions about your membership status please send this informaton to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Charles Hopson at:

9081 East Drearte Road
San Gabriel, California 91775

Your editor does not maintain membership or address records, so sending this information to him just delays the record update.

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

ED'S PAGE

Looking back on these three years of editing the Almanac, I find that it has been an educational and interesting time for me. Anyone desiring to learn about any subject, should edit the newsletter. With all the experts reading it, any mistakes are quickly caught and brought to your attention.

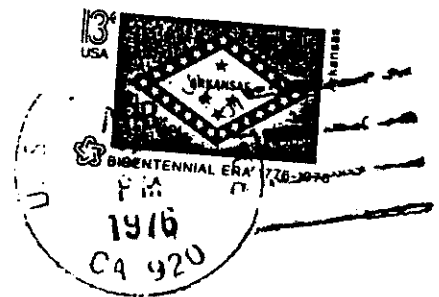
As was explained in the first issue, the title of the newsletter was based on an old-time description of an almanac which I felt was appropriate. The description was: an almanac is a miscellany of useful information (hopefully that has been provided), though some of dubious merit (here I succeeded beyond my wildest imagination), including entertaining remarks (?), pithy and scientific observations (??), together with remedies for sundry ailments, both grave and trivial (at least the trivial were covered).

More seriously, 108 pages of information on PCNI has been published, including the issue that I feel was the most important, the Check List (now in need of a revision). Many members sent articles, letters and photos which is the only way an editor can produce a newsletter. Unfortunately, there have been times when there was a definite lack of material to fill the Almanac, the present issue an example. (One additional item did arrive well after the deadline and too late to put in the issue.)

If I could leave a legacy to our incoming editor, Olive Rice, it would be that every member of the SPCNI would send her an article or photo. Then she would never want for the finest items to fill the pages of the Almanac.

Ed

Almanac of the Society for
Pacific Coast Native Iris
Edward Pasahow, Editor
6235 Syracuse Lane
San Diego, CA 92122



THIRD CLASS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED