

**Almanac:
Society for
Pacific Coast
Native Iris**

Spring 1978

Volume V Number 2

Executive Committee of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

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The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of The American Iris Society; membership in the latter is a prerequisite for membership in the SPCNI.

Dues:	Individual	Family
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PUBLICATION STAFF

Editor	Olive Rice
Associate Editor	George Waters
Consultant	↵Jean Witt

From the Editor:

Volunteers for arboretum societies regularly meet to propagate plants for their societies' fund-raising events. Pacific Coast native iris are among the plants raised for the Strybing Arboretum sale in San Francisco, and our member Caroline Spiller reports that her committee raised and sold at this year's sale, \$500 worth of PCNs.

Demand among these volunteers for our Fall 1977 issue has been high; we hope that these workers will enjoy equally the cumulative checklist which accompanies this issue. Francesca Thoolen has spent many hours compiling the information in it, as well as in preparing the index for our first ten *Almanacs*.

*

The always attractive yearbook of the Iris Society of Australia was made even more so this year by its color covers showing four Pacific Coast native irises in rose, purple, lavender and blue.

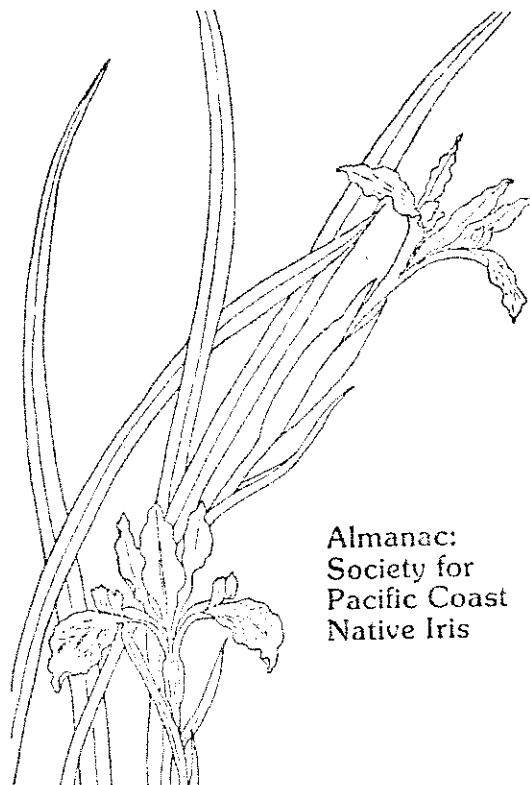
The inside cover picture featured Dan Hargrave's pure white PCI; Mr. Hargrave writes of his experiences with the PCI, as he has for us in this issue.

We thank Les and Gwen Donnell for sharing their yearbook with us.

*

For those of you unable to attend the American Iris Society Convention in San Jose, we promise to appreciate the native irises growing on Ralph and Sue Coleman's mountaintop above Santa Cruz, and to see that notes are taken on any of the new Ghio hybrids still blooming when Bay View Gardens is on the tour Friday, April 28, 1978. Perhaps another year we can all make the trip that Grace Carter tells about—are *you* interested?

Olive



Almanac:
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cover: Diana Gregory

Golden State '78

From the President

FOCUS OF SECTION MEETING: SLIDES OF 1978 BLOOM SEASON

Glenn Corlew, program chairman for SPCNI, reports that the program for the annual section meeting at the American Iris Society's National Convention will focus on slides of the current bloom of our Pacific Coast natives. The section meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 26 at 10 a.m. in the Hyatt House's Granada Room, San Jose, California.

One of the three judges training sessions at the 1978 convention will concern the PCIs. It will be held at 8:30 p.m. in the Monte Carlo Room at the Hyatt House on Thursday, April 27, 1978.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: CONVENTION SEED PACKETS

Using three cans full of Pacific Coast native iris seeds donated by August Phillips, LaRue Boswell has stamped, filled and sealed over 800 coin-size envelopes. These will be gifts of welcome from our society to the guests attending the Golden State '78 convention of the American Iris Society, as part of the registration packets for convention. Our thanks go to both LaRue and August for their generosity and spontaneity.

FRT

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, Jean Witt, chairman, reports the following slate of officers for the term beginning July 1, 1978:

For President:	Glenn F. Corlew
For Vice President:	Duane Meek
For Vice President:	LaRue Boswell
For Secretary:	Marguerite Hawkinson
For Treasurer:	C. R. Hopson
For Editor:	Olive Rice

(Signed)
Jean Witt
Philip Edinger
Ray Chesnik
August Phillips

From the Bylaws of the SPCNI concerning nominations and elections, Article VI, Section 2: The Nomination and Election Committee shall present a slate of officers to the membership in the Newsletter 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 February 15, there will be a voting ballot mailed to the membership. To make a further nomination, one must obtain the signatures of five members in good standing as endorsement and mail the nomination to the Chairman of the Nominations and Election Committee along with a written statement of acceptance by the nominee. The Committee shall thereupon arrange immediately for an election by mail ballot, the ballots to be counted must be returned to the Nominations and Elections Chairman not later than May 15.



Each term of office produces officers with new thoughts, new endeavors and, we hope, some achievements. Two years ago we stated the progress made by SPCNI and of course we had plans to add to its accomplishments. In this pursuit I feel we can be proud of the outgoing Executive Committee. In spite of certain limitations we were able to initiate a Slide Rental Library, to produce a Portable Display Board to exhibit during Conventions, our 2nd Cumulative Checklist, an Index to the Almanac and two judging sessions, including the judges' training session being led in cooperation with the American Iris Society at the National Convention in San Jose this spring. We also prepared over 800 envelopes of californicae seeds to be distributed to registrants of the National Convention as a token of welcome on behalf of SPCNI. Californicae publications and SPCNI stationery were made available to SPCNI members.

Our membership is increasing and we now have a mailing list of members and subscribers totalling 150.

There is still much to be done and our successors will not find themselves idle for lack of things to do.

I would like to express my appreciation to our Executive Committee and Committee Chairmen who have donated much time and effort, even long distance travel, to make this a successful term, and to those who were asked to do special assignments and did them graciously. My good wishes are extended to the new Board and hope they have the same good experience.
—ALOHA!!!

Francesca Thoolen



My Debt to *Iris Munzii*

THORNTON M. ABELL, Santa Monica, California

For a number of years we had talked to Lee Lenz about *Iris munzii* and about the plants he had selected that grew wild. He told us about his breeding program of combining *I. munzii* with other Pacific Coast iris in order to get the turquoise color in flowers with better form and habit.

He gave us pollen to use at home. I used it with AMIGUITA and the resulting seedlings were the first of our line. Another year he gave us three of his *I. munzii* hybrid seedlings, a wide variety, very vigorous, a medium and a light blue, not so vigorous. I used these with our AMIGUITA X *I. munzii* seedlings. The best flowers that I have to date are from this cross and reverse cross, *I. munzii* X AMIGUITA. There have been many blues, some flashed with deeper blue, some with strong yellow signal, some wide and ruffled and some narrower and tailored. I enjoy all of them. The less vigorous don't survive, but the strong plants grow well and increase well.

We crossed AMIGUITA X *I. munzii* seedling with a George Stambach white seedling. This produced a row of over thirty plants with one poor light blue but most uninteresting shades of lavender and rose, which were discarded. One which Alma was entranced with—a pert compact charming plant with white flowers flashed blue-violet, she immediately named PIQUE. It has since been introduced and has received awards.

Another detour in our search for blues was KITTEE, now in many gardens. The seed was gathered on the Monterey Peninsula by an old and dear friend in the Southern California Iris Society. Her name was Kittee and we named the plant in her memory.

Whatever quality of flower that I have been able to produce is the direct result of Lee Lenz's *I. munzii* hybrids. Without them, good flowers would have been a long time coming.

I have the plants growing in full sun, part sun and part shade, and some in mostly shade. In my coastal climate they appear to prefer sun with a little shade. With the alkaline water and soil that we have, I always add some soil sulphur to every soil mix as well as a little fungicide, some wood ashes and lots of composty material.

The plants will go undivided for a number of years but eventually they will begin to die out in the center of the clump and they must be dug, divided, old growth discarded and only fresh growth replanted.

Pacific Coast iris are most satisfactory in the garden. Many of my plants start to bloom in February or March and they continue with some late bloom stalks coming as late as the end of April into May. They are iris that have a long season and are charming. No one should be without a few clumps of them.

Grow PCIs From Seed

GEORGE STAMBACH, Pasadena, California

Seeds are an excellent way to get our iris established under adverse conditions. Those that survive will be really worthwhile. Pacific Coast native iris want slightly acid conditions and lots of good composted material is ideal—so are earthworms to break down the soil and add nourishment to it. Production of both compost and worms should be encouraged, as they improve all gardens. Here in Southern California much of our soil must be treated to combat alkali, naturally present in the soil and augmented by our water supply from the Colorado River. Acid fertilizers help.

I find our native iris, especially the smaller type plants, make very good container plants. I have 9-10-12 year old plants which have never been in the ground. Containers can be of wood, metal, plastic or glazed, of any size. The planting mix can be made to order, but too much peat should not be used for once it dries out it

is hard to wet again. Use good composted material at least fifty percent with coarse sand or other drainage material. For large containers add several earthworms.

These containers can be moved to get the proper amount of sun and shade—approximately half and half, I find—they will take more shade than other irises and the flowers will be better and last longer. A good general fertilizer is 2-10-10, applied two or three times a year, especially after heavy rains when it may have leached out of the container. Remember that it won't leach out so fast if there is plenty of organic matter in the mix, and perhaps just a little peat. I mulch all of my iris in the ground and in containers, with good organic material which will break down and add food to the plants. A good mulch for especially large containers is pine needles. They are also acid and while they do not break down they make a good appearance and conserve water.

The Claremont Irises

LEE W. LENZ, Director, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California

So much has already been written about *Iris munzii* that it seems unnecessary to comment further on it and I would not except for the fact that it has played such an important role in the production of the Claremont hybrids. In any breeding program it is logical that emphasis be placed upon those plants that thrive under the environmental conditions to which the plants are subjected. At Claremont *I. munzii* is such a plant; it grows vigorously and blooms over a very long period of time. SIERRA SAPPHIRE can regularly be expected to continue to show flowers until the first of July. Another factor that commends the species to the breeder is the tall strong stems that carry the flowers well above the leaves. Genes from other species are incorporated to improve the form of the flowers which in *I. munzii* leave much to be desired.

Iris munzii was described by R. C. Foster of Harvard University in 1938 but it had been grown at this botanic garden as early as 1933 having been collected by Carl Wolf at the now famous Coffee Creek campground site. By 1935 the plants had all died and it was not reintroduced until 1947 when bare-root plants were brought to the garden by Philip Munz. These plants did not survive and the first successful introduction of the species into cultivation was from seed which I collected in the summer of 1948.

Within the species there is a certain amount of variation in the size and shape of the flower parts as well as in color. Every year I used to visit the sites where the species occurs and collected pollen from plants that displayed unusual characters. On one of these annual pilgrimages I had as my guests, the Stevens from New Zealand. As long as Jean Stevens had grown irises she had never seen one growing in its native habitat and when we came to the colony at Coffee Creek she was so excited that she attempted to get out of the car before I could bring it to a stop. For her it was one of the highlights of her life. On one of my annual trips (the year is not recorded), I found a plant with flowers having exceptionally broad segments. I collected pollen and applied it to flowers in my garden. The improved flower form in the Claremont *Iris munzii* and hybrids has thus come down through the generations from a single plant, unheralded in the history of iris breeding, un-numbered and uncollected.

In recent years two hybrid plants in particular have played important roles in my breeding program. Among my *Iris munzii* X *I. douglasiana* hybrids was one that I always considered superior, although somewhat temperamental. Under good cultural conditions it produces beautiful large blue flowers borne on strong stems as much as eighteen inches tall. Because I considered it my major achievement up to that time, I asked Alma Abell if I could name it in her honor and she kindly consented.

The other hybrid that has played an important role in my breeding program appeared many years ago and because of its unique characters I continued to grow it but did not use it in the hybridizing program until about five years ago. The plant, unregistered and un-numbered, is known simply as BIG PURPLE and it combines genes of *I. douglasiana*, *innominata* and *bracteata*. The flowers are rather a deep purple and are about four inches across. The falls which have a very small signal patch are very broad and rather short making the flower very compact.

It has many faults however; the stems are weak and rather short, the flowers often fail to open properly due to the excessive width of the falls and the spathe valves are long and partially enclose the flower which, to further complicate the matter, has a short perianth tube. A long perianth tube would put the flower outside of the reaches of the encompassing spathe valves.

Pollen of BIG PURPLE was placed on the flowers of ALMA ABELL and the resulting plants far exceeded my expectations. Many of the flowers reached six inches in width and were borne on tall stems on vigorous plants. Flowers from some of these plants were shown at the iris show at Arcadia in 1976, where they received considerable attention. Some of the best forms have now been divided and quantities are being built up so that further evaluation may be made. In the spring of 1978 several hundred seedlings will be expected to bloom from seed set on some of the better hybrids crossed among themselves or back-crossed to BIG PURPLE.

Over the years I have given pollen of BIG PURPLE to other breeders and they should have hybrids similar to mine. The complaint I have most often heard has been that the hybrids had weak stems. BIG PURPLE must be used on plants with strong, and preferably tall, stems.



Clarke Cosgrove

Dr. Clarke Cosgrove, the late President of the American Iris Society possessed an insatiable desire to hybridize, and grow irises of all species, as well as all plants. Perhaps not so well-known was Dr. Cosgrove's particular love for Pacific Coast native iris. Clarke had developed a special interest in natives after seeing displays of these in full bloom at irisarians' homes in Northern California and Oregon during a National Convention.

Upon retirement in the mid-seventies, Dr. Cosgrove obtained many seeds of random crosses involving *Iris douglasiana* and *I. innominata* and he began to grow seedlings on a larger scale than his earlier, busy life had permitted. Clarke experimented with the many seedlings by growing some in dry areas, others in moist areas, some in high, full shade and others in full sun. Large areas underneath live oaks were planted in naturalized drifts and mounds at his Escondido home. He was particularly fond of naturalistic settings.

Claremont Irises (Continued)

The Claremont hybrids are suited to the Claremont environment because that environment has been the selective pressure under which they have been developed. Those plants with combinations of genes not suitable for our rather inhospitable habitat never reached blooming. In another environment they might have been very successful. Iris breeders should work with those species, and hybrids, which are successful under their conditions of climate and soil. Seldom, if ever, will it be possible to produce a hybrid that does equally well everywhere. *Iris munzii* has been of great value to me in my breeding program but it has its limitations; in general it is not satisfactory and is subject to botrytis in cool coastal areas. It prefers warm areas with high soil temperatures and not too much water. There has been much debate about how much cold it will tolerate and I have nothing new to add to that controversy.

There are still many exciting combinations among the Californicae that have not yet been fully exploited. Here are a few that to me seem to offer the greatest opportunities for development.

I have never been able to use *Iris tenax* in my breeding program; it will not grow at Claremont. The species possesses genes for winter dormancy and hardness that are required in many parts of the country. In its better forms it is a very beautiful plant and worth greater attention, particularly from breeders in colder areas.

In my estimation, *Iris bracteata* is perhaps the most

Clarke, always a leader and instructor, encouraged others to make crosses of Pacific Coast irises; yet he preferred that nature and insects transcend his hybridizing efforts. He encouraged others in England and New Zealand to grow, enjoy, and hybridize natives. He was always interested in the performance of Pacific Coast natives in England and was instrumental in increasing their international popularity.

Dr. Cosgrove's own philosophy—right or wrong—was never inclined toward commercial introduction of any exceptional seedlings that might appear in his plantings, consequently none were singled out for propagation. An exceptional seedling of his is a clear golden yellow from among the many he observed during the 1977 bloom season. He preferred not to "do in" a seedling until all traits, good or poor, had been carefully observed. It is doubtful Dr. Cosgrove would have introduced the most perfect seedling ever created. He would have shared it with others and encouraged them to grow, enjoy and hybridize it with other Pacific Coast natives. He never considered any of his seedlings worthy of introduction. Years ago he did persuade his brother-in-law, Ralph Conrad, to name and introduce WIND SHADOWS. Mr. Conrad gave the stock to a grower for commercial sale.

Many seedlings will be carefully observed in the plantings of the late Dr. Cosgrove during the coming years. It is hoped family members and other irisarians will find several natives that would have pleased him. It is further hoped these exceptional seedlings will be shared, widely grown, and become a living memorial to Dr. Clarke Cosgrove's keen interest in Pacific Coast natives.

Sanford Roberts

beautiful species in the Californicae. In general it is not easy to grow but for those who can cultivate it successfully I recommend it highly. The best forms have flowers of great size borne on tall stiff stems. The yellow color is overlaid with a network of maroon veining producing a most attractive flower. BIG PURPLE combined with *I. bracteata* could produce plants with spectacular flowers. I will attempt to supply pollen of BIG PURPLE to anyone wishing to make the combination. From my limited experience with *I. bracteata* I know that within a few generations plants can be produced that are easier to grow than the species itself yet retain many of its desirable characteristics.

Certain forms of *Iris macrosiphon* have flowers of fine form and with a very beautiful and unusual dark blue or blue-purple color. In addition some have flowers possessing a most delightful fragrance, a character that, to my knowledge, has never been incorporated into any garden hybrid.

And finally I would suggest the use of the deep golden-yellow form of *Iris hartwegii*. The color is quite different from the yellow of either *I. innominata* or *I. bracteata*.

Visitors are most welcome at Claremont during the iris season but should bear in mind that the experimental area where the irises are grown is not open to the public and an appointment should be made before coming to Claremont. A weekday is preferable as I am often away weekends showing my dogs.

Native Iris Field Trips

GRACE CARTER, Hood River, Oregon

My interest in native iris began when I first saw the illustration of ORCHID SPRITE in *The Iris, an Ideal Hardy Perennial*, first published in 1947 by the AIS. Then, in 1949 when we were returning to Utah from a trip to California we stopped in Placerville to see Lloyd Austin's garden, and bought our first native iris, seedlings of *Iris douglasiana*. They were eventually lost when we moved to Spokane in 1951. Later, when we settled in Hood River, Oregon, I grew them from seed. These seeds were from Austin, open-pollinated, and were truly a mixed bag, but lovely nonetheless.

In the early spring of 1958 I responded to a notice in the AIS *Bulletin* announcing a field trip to study native iris in southern Oregon and northern California. At the same time I joined a native iris robin directed by Hattie Hubbard who was then living in Olympia. That really did it. From that time on I have been a species freak, especially interested in the Pacific Coast Iris.

Your editor, Olive Rice and I met at the AIS convention in Memphis, 1977, and she asked me if I would write about these early field trips for the *Almanac*. The first group trip that we took was in May, 1958. We also went on trips in 1959, 1961, and 1962. The 1962 trip was primarily in northern California. We started in Ukiah, roamed around Mendocino County, and then went north on Highway 101.

Our first trip in 1958 was one of the best, so I will confine myself to that. Roy Davidson had led groups on previous years, but the 1958 trip was the first one that my husband and I had joined. This is the route list that Hattie sent me:

May 7 (Wednesday)—Leave Olympia early enough to reach Eugene by 6 p.m. Short stop at Ruth Hardy's. This day we will see *Iris chrysophylla* and *I. tenax*. Overnight at Roseburg.

May 8 (Thursday)—Meet Marvin 6:30 a.m. at junction of highway 42 and 99. Trip into Agness via Powers, up the Rogue to Marial and Galice. (*Iris innominata*) Sleep at Grants Pass.

May 9 (Friday)—Short trips according to roads, Selma down the Illinois, Selma to Waldo via back road, O'Brien to the coast over the mountains, down the Smith River. (*Iris bracteata* and *I. thompsonii*). Stop at Peg Grey's. Crescent City.

May 10 (Saturday)—Coast trip in Coos County, investigate the Chetco, Pistol and Rogue Rivers, trips to predesignated areas according to season and roads. Stay at Gold Beach or Bandon. (*Iris douglasiana* and *I. innominata*)

May 11 (Sunday)—Start home.

From the Seattle area we had Roy Davidson, Orpha Salsman, Hattie Hubbard, and Angus Robertson. From Oregon, the Carters, Ruth Hardy, and Florence Champion. We kept crossing paths with Izetta Renton and Birdie Radovich from Seattle who were plant-hunting in the same area. Marvin and Mary Black met us on Thursday.

It was a very good group for a trip like this. We camped out at Billy's Creek near the Rogue River, cooked many of our meals together, and watched out for each other to make sure the car behind us made the proper turns.

The road into Agness on the Rogue River via Powers was not a super road, but the terrain and the plants along the way were fascinating. Here we found yellow *Iris innominata* with red stripes or reddish flush on the falls making them the variegatas of the native group. At Billy's Creek we found *I. innominata* in a great many variations of color and pattern. (This could have been the influence of *I. tenax*.) As we got nearer the Rogue, we found dark purple *I. innominata*.

Going up to the Iron Mountain area we found many yellow *I. innominata* growing along the roads, right in the cut banks, dwarfed by their surroundings, perfect for rock gardens.

The area around O'Brien was one of my favorites. There were many plants of interest, violets, erythroniums, ceanothus, calochortus, and *Iris bracteata*. The area behind our motel at O'Brien was open wooded fields. We walked out through the trees after breakfast and collected several choice plants.

We took a very round-about route through the mountains on logging and fire roads into California and down to Crescent City. On the Smith River we found the *Iris douglasiana*-*I. innominata* hybrid known as *I. thompsonii*, with very lovely pastel colors and interesting patterns. On the coast we found *I. douglasiana*. On the southern Oregon coastal areas there are places where it grows in great drifts.

On the road up the Pistol River where we found a stand of predominantly white *Iris douglasiana*, our old car scraped over a big rock and developed a disturbing "ping" and an oil drip that convinced us it would be prudent to stick to well-travelled roads and head for home.

So back to everyday things, smitten with the plant collector's mania, full of lovely memories and with a car loaded with precious plants.

If you suspect that this might be for you too, get some plastic bags, learn the rules of collecting (where to find them and what is prohibited) and brush up on some of the techniques of reducing mortality in your collected plants, and then go out and have the time of your life.

Notes from Australia

DAN HARGRAVE, Parkdale, Australia

My strain of Pacific Coast iris hybrids originated in the same manner as many others—that is, from the collections of Fred DeForest and Dr. Riddle. (See *Almanac*, Vol. IV, No. 1).

Iris douglasiana seed was sent by Prof. Sydney Mitchell to Fred Danks, an internationally known plant breeder who was one of the founders of the Australian Iris Society. Mr. Danks got his *Iris innominata* from Mrs. Jean Stevens of New Zealand. Fred crossed *I. douglasiana* and *I. innominata* and was possibly the first person to do so. Hybrids grown from seed he sent to Luhrsen of Seattle were the first named varieties registered by the American Iris Society.

In the late 1940s, Fred Danks gave me seed and encouraged me to commence breeding. He could not continue with a specialized program because of his many other interests. I was then a member of the American Iris Society and had raised some good bearded iris seedlings from imported parents, but I realized that American growers would do all that was needed in the bearded iris field.

After establishing stock of *Iris douglasiana* X

I. innominata hybrids, I looked for other species that would yield desirable characteristics. Of the many tried, only *I. munzii* and *I. chrysographes* were useful. *I. munzii* influence is present in many of my seedlings—I have even used it in yellows—although it takes generations to breed out the unwanted blue-grey color while retaining the desired qualities.

In 1964, owing to illness, I had to sell my home and live in a flat. I gave my stock to members of the Australian Iris Society who had given service to the Society. However, I did keep some seed, and resumed growing on a reduced scale at my present address, which has very sandy soil not enjoyed by these irises. The soil gets very hot in summer, and it does not retain plant food or moisture.

The Douglasiana-Innominata cross must surely be the Pandora's box of horticulture. The infinite variety of color, pattern and form continues to amaze me. As far as I can guess from issues of *The Almanac* the seedlings produced here and in California are very similar. I have never bothered to name any, but now that Barry Blyth is interested, perhaps some named ones will appear. The public appetite for them is not strong yet, because they have finished blooming when our Spring shows are staged.

However, there is a group in the Iris Society of Australia concentrating on species culture and I hear that some of them are now breeding Pacific Coast irises. One is Barry Blyth's father, who will get good results because he is methodical and experienced.

I suppose that most American breeders of Pacific Coast irises have done the natural thing—concentrate first on color and secondly on form in choosing parents. This yields great results, because color now covers the entire spectrum and the variation in form is all one could desire.

I now put the accent on some other characters when choosing parents. I have eliminated those plants that produce flowers on long brittle tubes. I have also concentrated, with reason, on using pod parents with straight, strong, upright stems. I look for branching and long stems where *Iris munzii* and *Iris douglasiana* are the dominant influences.

Iris munzii blood is easily recognizable, even though the blue flash has been bred out. *I. chrysographes* influence is harder to see, but I used it in breeding purples only. Now and then the typical *I. chrysographes* mark down the center of the falls shows up. Some remarkable forms in standards that sometimes appear could originate from *I. chrysographes*.

I used *I. munzii* and *I. chrysographes* only in the early part of my breeding plan. I then let their influence be diluted while attempting to use any good characteristics that emerged. I consider it likely that some of the unexpected color patterns and variations in form that appear now are due to *I. munzii* and *I. chrysographes* characters reappearing in some seedlings.

Canyon Snow



CANYON SNOW, raised by Dara Emery at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden from seed of *Iris douglasiana*, has large, well formed white flowers with a bright yellow signal. Flower stems are sturdy and upright. As a garden plant it is without equal among Pacific Coast irises, not only because of the freedom with which the flowers are

produced and the manner in which they are displayed, but because the foliage is a bright shiny green. Foliage of Pacific Coast irises is usually dark green and dull—seldom a distinctive feature, but on CANYON SNOW the leaves remain an ornament with flowering over. Photograph by Maria Ealand.

W.G.W.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR March 6, 1978

Cash on hand, July 9, 1977 \$ 637.78

Receipts

Dues: 2 Life members \$100.00
 15 triennial members 150.00
 37 annual & family members 159.00
 \$409.00

Sale of books 81.00
 \$490.00 \$1127.78

Disbursements

Membership Renewal forms \$ 29.98
 Shipping charges, stationery 2.16
 Telephone, nominating committee 9.36
 Envelopes & stamps, treasurer 22.07
 Postage & expense, president 10.96
 Typesetting, Spring *Almanac* 100.50
 Printing, Spring *Almanac* 118.75
 Editor's expense 26.41
 1000 seed envelopes 8.52
 Rubber stamp for above 6.07
 \$334.78 \$793.00

Balance on hand, March 6, 1978 \$793.00

Russ Hopson

SOCIETY for PACIFIC COAST NATIVE IRIS

Order your SPCNI stationery

new Doris Foster designs
 8½ x 11", sheets and long envelopes
 5½ x 8½", sheets and short envelopes
 4¼ x 5½" postcards

Packaged in units of ten,
 \$1.50 includes postage & handling

Send to: Francesca Thoolen
 255 Manzanita Drive
 Orinda, CA 94563



The Executive Committee met January 21, 1978 at the home of the president, Francesca Thoolen, in Orinda, California. Minutes of the March 26, 1977 meeting were read and approved. A report from the treasurer was read and filed for audit, the balance being \$732.91.

Posters of the Pacific Coast native iris were passed to Publicity Chairman Glenn Corlew for updating and display at the American Iris Society Convention in San Jose, California, April 26-30, 1978.

A letter was read from LeRoy Davidson of Signa, inviting the SPCNI to cosponsor a trek to see Pacific Coast iris in their native habitat. No volunteer had been found to assume the added responsibility for this activity, and unless Signa can produce a chairman we cannot participate.

The American Iris Society has designated our Section as one of three to sponsor a Judges Training Session at the San Jose Convention. Our annual Section meeting is April 26 at 10 a.m.

Sections of the AIS have been allotted space in its quarterly bulletin, with that for SPCNI to fall annually in the Spring issue.

There was discussion of the effort to bring SPCNI membership expiration dates into line with those of AIS so that eventually AIS can collect SPCNI dues. SPCNI mailing labels will show both AIS and SPCNI expiration dates.

A decision to print the Cumulative Check List of 1978, covering Pacific Coast native iris listing through 1977, was made; the checklist will be a section of the Spring 1978 *Almanac*.

An index of material in *Almanac* issues was proposed; it would be the Editor's responsibility to see that the index is maintained and to publish it at suitable intervals.

Approval was given for inquiries concerning the feasibility of printing postcards and color illustrations where funding is available.

Doris Foster,
 Recording Secretary

THE ALMANAC has the following items FOR SALE. Please write to the editor.

Cohen, Victor A.,
A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises
 London: The British Iris Society, 1967. \$2.00 each.

An Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species of the Genus Iris, compiled and edited by Angela Marchant and Brian Mathew.
 The British Iris Society, 1974. \$2.50 each.

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