

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

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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris

Lewis & Adele Lawyer: ALMANAC, Fall 1986. 22 pages, 9 photographs. \$3.50 postage paid.

Third Cumulative Check List

Francesca Thoolen: 36 pages. Lists and describes Pacific Coast native iris and named hybrids through 1985. \$4.00 postage paid.

A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises

Victor A. Cohen: The British Iris Society 1967. Booklet, 5.5 x 8.5, 40 pages, 16 line drawings, 8 color and 6 black-and-white photographs. Brief description of species and sub-species including their distribution. \$4.00 postpaid

A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises

Lee W. Lenz: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Booklet 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 9 line drawings, 14 photographs, and 12 maps. Definitive work on the taxonomic status of the *Californicae*, with a key to the species and sub-species. Detailed maps and accounts of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid.

Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Iris

Lee W. Lenz: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Companion booklet to the above, 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 30 figures, graphs, drawings, and photographs. Definitive work on naturally occurring inter-specific crosses of PCI, including detailed account of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid. If ordered together, both Lenz booklets may be obtained for \$10.00 postage paid.

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Seed of species and garden hybrids is available for \$1.00 per packet from the Seed Distribution Chairmen: Louis & Caroline Fry, 4 Renata Court, Novato, CA 94947. (415) 382-1708

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MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of the American Iris Society; membership in AIS is a prerequisite for membership in the SPCNI. If you wish only to receive the ALMANAC (two issues per year), the annual subscription rate is \$4.00.

Membership	Individual	Family
Annual	\$ 4.00	\$ 5.00
Triennial	10.00	12.00
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Please send membership-subscription monies to the SPCNI Treasurer.

ALMANAC

ALMANAC deadlines are March 1 and September 1. Back issues are available for \$3.50 each, postpaid. Complete index arranged either chronologically, by subject matter, or by author. \$1.00, each or all 3 for \$2.00, postpaid. Please address the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past two years we have had quite an increase in membership. It would be nice to have some feed-back from some of you relating why you joined, and where you learned of our organization. We would like to know whether your interest is primarily in hybrid cultivars, species, PCI's in the wild, or all of these. Also it would be nice to know how long you have been involved with the PCI's, and how they are growing in your garden.

Some of our members have been working hard to try to develop hybrids that will be hardy under some of your more adverse conditions. They need input from you; so let our publications department know your wishes.

Claude

SPCN-Iris friends, we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. We are hoping to be at the 1992 National Convention, and that we will meet many of you there at our annual meeting. Perhaps if we get enough new members, we could start having two meetings each year.

We also hope to compile a list of PCI gardens that will be open for visits by our members. These would be gardens where you could phone ahead to find out about availability of blooms and a convenient time for the hosts.

After two hard winters with frigid air blowing down from Alaska, most of us on the west coast are left with some pretty cold-hardy PCI's. From what I learn, many seeds from these plants have been



Joanne and Claude Derr

donated to the seed exchange. We have donated some dwarf *I. setosa* seed in case some of you would be interested in crossing setosa to your PCI's. Perhaps you could get something hardy enough to grow where you can not grow your Pacificas.

We had a wonderful time on the SPCNI trip this year, and are looking forward to the trips now in the making for the next several years. It would be "fantastic" to meet you and your PCI babies in the coming year.

Joanne

FROM THE EDITOR

Most of our gardens are blessed with a plant or plants which were given to us by friends. No matter how much time has passed, we never look at that plant without recalling the friend. I have a succulent that was given to me in 1926, and now, 65 years later, I still remember the man who gave it to me in his Glendale garden and how pleased I was at the time.

These fond recollections are easy to understand, but who would think that I could find nostalgia in a bunch of old seed envelopes? I'm not sure whether it's because I went through the big depression

of the 20's, or whether it's because I fell for the doomsday predictions of the environmentalists. Maybe it's a little of both, but anyway, I hate to waste paper.

Whenever we gather seeds for our own use here at home, we write the necessary information in a single line, starting at the top of the envelope. When the seeds are planted, we draw a line under that information and save the envelope. In that way we can get about twelve years of information on each envelope.

On some of these envelopes, we have now reached the bottom, and, like the

Grand Canyon, the lines of the geologic past are laid out for us to peruse. Earlier this fall when Adele and I were gathering seeds, I pulled an envelope out of the stack and wondered if there was room for another line. All of a sudden, way up at the top of the envelope, I saw:

"XP1C / Soq Cove 32"

This was the very first Pacifica cross I ever made, and dates back to the spring of 1978.

XP1C was a pale blue self selected from seed given to me in 1975 by August Phillips, and was the start of our *I. munzii* hybridizing. I remember how thrilled I was when blue flowers began to show up in that first seedling patch, and how that had started a warm friendship with August. I remember thinking that Joe

Ghio's Soquel Cove was *munzii* derived, had a beautiful flower, and would make a good parent. The "32" meant that I got 32 seeds from that pod. My notes show that it was one of three pods totaling 78 seeds, one of which became Sierra Butterflies.

Both of those parents were gifts to us, the seed from August, and the plant of Soquel Cove from Joe. It's hard to believe that just three years earlier I was unaware that there was a Series *Californicae*, and that just three years later I would be so irreversibly hooked. I guess that was their gift, too.



R. D. KENITZER NEW SLIDE FILE CHAIRMAN

Roland D. Kenitzer of Sequim, Washington has agreed to take over the position of Slide Chairman of SPCNI. He will collect, sort, and catalog slides donated by members, and eventually will organize slide programs which can be rented to interested parties.

He became interested in irises after he and his family moved to northern California from Hawaii in 1962. A friend gave him some iris rhizomes to plant at his new home in Cupertino, and then when another friend told him about the Rees Iris Garden in San Jose, he started visiting the Rees garden and even purchased a few rhizomes. "But", he says, "I still wasn't hooked by the iris virus."

When Ruth Rees had to close her garden, and R.D. found that he need more plants, he decided that it was time to join a club. He joined the Clara B. Rees Iris Society, and later the Westbay Iris Society. The auctions, raffles, and plant sales got him started, and eventually his collection numbered over 350 varieties. Included

were PCI's and spurias as well as the bearded iris. He joined the AIS, SPCNI, the Reblooming Iris Society, the Spuria Iris Society, and was active in the two local societies.

When they retired in 1990, he and his wife, Diane, moved to Sequim, Washington, on the Olympic Peninsula, and are now enjoying that beautiful area. This move, however, drastically reduced the size of his iris collection which was at last count around 85 in number. Also, because of the difficulty of transplanting the Pacificas, he left them behind and is starting over again, this time primarily with seed.

R.D. is an excellent photographer and lecturer on photography. He enjoys the challenge of taking a really good picture, especially of iris, and has a number of his own slides for the SPCNI Slide Program. He also enjoys using his computer. His three hobbies, iris, photography, and computers make him a natural for Slide Chairman.

SPCNI SLIDE COLLECTION A REQUEST FOR SLIDES

R. D. Kenitzer, Sequim WA

The SPCNI needs your help! Our slide collection has grown old and we need YOUR good slides of PCI's to rejuvenate it. We want to put together slide shows for

your use and for other iris groups to see and enjoy. We need slides of PCI species, in their native habitat or in your garden, and of named cultivars or seedlings.

We'd like to enliven our slide shows with a variety of poses of our special irises. Many pictures are taken from above the blossom to show the form, colors, and pattern. Pictures from the side show how the standards and falls are arranged, and some of the underside colors and patterns. But even more important, side views can show the details of the perianth tube, the ovaries, and other parts useful in identification. Moving back a step or two, and pictures of the iris clump or group show the foliage and growth habits. Overviews of the group and the area in which it is growing, show the habitat, or garden, and the surrounding plants. All these varieties of pictures are needed for an interesting and successful slide show or program.

Of course, there are a few things which apply to all pictures. We might characterize these as the 4 P's: proper focus, proper exposure, proper composition, and proper background. Proper, sharp focus of the main subject is important. Proper exposure is required to bring out the details and to provide full, rich color of the iris. Proper composition means having one center of interest to attract the viewer's eye. A proper background is one that does not distract from the main subject by having bright spots or colorful objects that distract.

And, finally, we need some information about the iris, the picture, and the slide taker:

Iris -

If it is a PCI species picture, provide the species name. If you can't identify the species, then a good side view would help others in attempting identification.

If a hybrid, provide the name or seedling number, and the name of the hybridizer.

Picture -

Date taken, and film type.

Location -

Provide any information available as to location, particularly for species photographed in the wild. We might even be able to use this information in plotting ranges for PCI species.

Photographer -

Your name and address.

SPCII accepts originals or duplicates for the collection. If you send originals back, please be sure and tell me. I will have duplicates made and return the originals. Please send your slides to the SPCNI Slide Chairman:

R. D. Kenitzer,
1765 Reservoir Road,
Sequim, WA 98382

I. D PHOTOS FOR INTRODUCED CULTIVARS

Jean Witt, Seattle

[Ed. note: During the SPCNI meeting in Portland last June, Jean Witt suggested that we request slides of each new introduction, and that we try to get slides of as many past introductions as possible. This is discussed in the minutes of that meeting elsewhere in this issue. She proposed that the slides be deposited with the SPCNI Slide Chairman for use when the identity of a cultivar was questioned.]

The importance of good photographic records was brought home to me vividly this last spring, when I managed to re-identify several "label-lost" items by comparing them with slides I had taken years before.

An elegant, flaring form of *I. missouriensis* with blue standards and nearly white falls bloomed for the first time in

many years, - our recent summers have apparently been too hot to favor it. With the aid of a slide taken at the time of collection I was able to determine that this was the clone from Colockum Road, in Kittitas County, Washington. A white-flowered form was subsequently re-identified as a clone from Union Gap, Washington. The two clumps had grown into each other.

It was among the PCI's, however, that the slides were the most helpful. BRIARCUP, (Craig's blue-eyed white), came out of hiding, verified by a twenty-year-old slide, even to its leaning stems. I actually thought that I had lost it, and was delighted to have it reappear since it is one of my best parents for the eyed pattern. While I was at it, I pinned down a pretty white/pink *I. innominata* seedling as

being one I had received from Leona Mahood, one of my first PCI acquisitions, kept because of the true pink color of the falls.

I had managed to lose VALLEY BANNER, and an observant friend remarked that both her new start and mine seemed smaller and narrower-petaled than she remembered. With a careful comparison to my slide of the plant from Ruth Hardy's original collection, we were able to decide that the present one is probably a seedling, even though it has the same color and pattern.

This points up an ongoing problem with named PCI's, i.e. vigorous seedlings can usurp the place of the parent, unnoticed. Commercial gardens presumably trim all the pods off quickly to prevent this, but in our own gardens we're not always so careful. Bees are inordinately

busy in my PCI's. Even collected species plants don't produce true seed. Adjacent to the *I. chrysophylla* a skinny, pinkish striped *I. tenax* hybrid made its appearance last year. Under another *I. tenax* clump a long-tubed deep violet flower appears to be a *I. macrosiphon* hybrid. In addition to cutting off pods, my advice is, take a good close-up photograph (slide or print) of each new variety that you buy, and also of your best breeders or collected items. This can be very important for future identification.

It is so important, in fact, that I am tempted to suggest that submitting a photograph of each new variety should be part of the registration process for PCI's. At the very least, Pacifica registrants should make sure they have photographs of their own registrations for future reference.

DRIVE YOU WILD WINS MITCHELL AWARD

Joe Ghio's DRIVE YOU WILD (Ghio '86), was voted the 1991 recipient of the Mitchell Award for outstanding qualities in the Series *Californicae*. Runners up were Peanut Gallery and Candy Banner.

Drive You Wild, pictured below, is a

striking contrast of colors with its brilliant gold-ray signal on a deep red-violet background. It is from a cross of Las Olas x Linda Vista, and thus traces back to Half Time, Casa Pacifica, Encircle, Emigrant, and Californian.



Drive You Wild

JOE GHIO NAMED HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Adele and Lewis Lawyer, Edited from a taped interview, September 26, 1991

Joseph J. Ghio, iris grower, hybridizer, nurseryman and oft-time politician, has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris. This award, proposed at a meeting of the previous Board of Directors and accepted by the present board, makes him the fifth person so honored,

It was the unanimous opinion of the members of both boards that Joe Ghio has done as much to popularize the PCI's as anyone in the history of their discovery and development. His "Pacifica" cultivars are known, and either treasured or coveted by enthusiasts wherever the PCI are grown. That they receive critical as well as popular acclaim is well substantiated by the fact that at last count he had won 11 times as many Mitchell Awards as any other hybridizer in history. It is also interesting to note that in the last 13 years the only two years when he didn't win the medal were when the judges couldn't make up their minds between the best two or three of his own varieties.

Joe's start with the Pacific Coast Iris, how he got seed from Jack Craig of material tracing back to the work of Sydney B. Mitchell and Fred Danks, how he stirred it up with seed of native iris from the Santa Cruz Mountains, added some material from Marjorie Brummitt, some Munzii pollen from Richard Richards, and some Marion Walker material from Ben Hager, is thoroughly documented in his article, "The Beginnings", in the fall, 1980, ALMANAC. Here we will try to cover some details not previously reported.

When we went to interview him last Thursday, we found him typically mulching his iris beds with an old hoe, about half of which had been worn away by the sand in his garden soil. Typically, also, Joe took us through his various iris patches, his roses, and his dahlias. In one of his iris patches he showed us two clumps of a new PCI seedling of his, to be named BALLET, which has possibly the best garden-plant type we have ever seen. Ballet had dark green, perfectly-placed leaves, symmetrically arranged around a well-filled center, and would be a welcome addition to any garden in the off season.

The garden visit finished, Joe took us into his kitchen and we sat around the

table. Adele showed him the two articles previously published in the Almanac so he would remember what had already been said, and Joe started reminiscing:

I can recall that I always liked plants. My grandparents originally migrated from Italy, and that side of the family (my mother's side) started farming at Button-willow down by Bakersfield. Anyway, that didn't work and they heard there was land up here. They eventually came to Santa Cruz in the 20's and started dairying on the Wilder Ranch, which is now a State Park. When the Wilders started leasing out land for farming my grandparents leased over a hundred acres and began trying different crops. These included artichokes, which they had been growing for some years, and brussels sprouts which became the "in" thing in this area, - broccoli and brussels sprouts. And pretty soon, - well that's about all that's grown around here now. Anyway, that was the farming tradition in my background, and several relatives on my mother's side also liked growing flowers.

My father was a commercial fisherman, but early on I developed a dislike for fish and I didn't like the ocean because I would get sick. Fishing was not the dominant part of my genetic pool.

And I recall that before I was eight we would get a big flier, probably from Conrad Pyle. It had all these pretty pictures of flowers. You could buy peonies and things like that. And I remember we went through the catalog and decided to buy some peonies and phlox. So we planted them. The phlox did fine, but the peonies, of course, had a problem. They grew but they didn't bloom very much because we didn't have cold enough winters.

And then there was Burpee. They always had that wonderful seed catalog with all those wonderful pictures. I remember she let me choose something and I chose marigolds. I got the seed and that's the first time I remember growing something myself. I had to be probably six or seven at that time, and I have a picture somewhere of me and a cat in front of that original plot of marigolds. Anyway, that's the first time I remember when I was actually involved in growing something myself.

Another interesting thing, my grandma had an extensive vegetable garden on the Rigg Street place. She grew corn and other stuff. My brother and I would bicycle and tricycle down there and do some of the work for her. I used to actually hand spade all that land. And I can't believe it now, since it is a big piece of property. She did a lot of broadcasting of seed. Like she would broadcast the aster seed, - just throw it on the ground and rake it in.

She did a lot of seed saving, in fact she seldom bought any. Now this is still in my early stages, in the 50's or late 40's, but I began noticing what went on. She had a lot of single asters, and I noticed that in the asters from which she had been keeping seeds they were mostly singles but occasionally there would be a double one in there. So that was interesting to me, and I began saving the double ones, and she saved them, too. Then in one of the double ones, there came a plant like the one I showed you out there in the garden. The petals were edged in white, and I had never seen that before. And so I began saving that seed.

I'm learning. I'm not yet doing iris or anything. Its not 1953 yet, but already I'm learning how to observe and select. First, when I began selecting out the doubles I noticed that although I'm selecting doubles, I'm still getting singles in the asters. And then when I got this lavender with the white edge I also was getting both singles and doubles with the pattern. Then we started finding other colors with that pattern. So then I began segregating them by color: the pink ones and the rose ones, and all these different colors began popping up with that pattern.

But the problem was that they would always throw some singles in with the doubles. I couldn't get the singles out of the doubles, and I never did solve the problem.

At that point I thought, "Now, this is something different", and I wrote to Ferry-Morse and gave them the history of my asters. I guess they get these letters all the time, but I actually got a response and they wanted to see them. So I sent them little packages of the color selections, and then, to my surprize, I got a call the next year saying that they liked my asters and to come down and talk to them.

They were at San Juan Batista and I went down there and we talked about them and they were impressed. They saw

the commercial possibilities. I told them the problem with the singles, but they said, "That's not a problem. Its genetic. Its going to be in certain ones and not in others. We'll separate them and we'll find out which ones won't throw singles." See, I didn't know that yet; but sure enough, the next time I go down there, they have it all straightened out. "This one here doesn't throw singles, this one does", and so on. In three years time they have it done, all refined and ready to go on the market. And they have it down to five different colors.

That year they enter it into the All American seed trials, and that's the year it gets aster wilt! It wasn't resistant and so that was the end! Just prior to that though, the year before Clorox bought out Ferry-Morse, they wanted to tie up loose ends before Clorox took over, and so they gave me \$500 for all the rights to the seed.

We moved here to this house on Bay Street in the wintertime. My mother had an extensive collection of roses and all kinds of stuff, even including some iris, I remember now. There were two kinds of iris. One was a red-purple thing and one was a lavender thing. The lavender one I planted over there by the faucet, and it was there for several years, because later, (1954) when I got into iris I crossed onto that one too.

Roses were the first thing we planted though. My aunt used to have a lot of them in the ranch house on the table. And she had all these flower garden magazines in this one room where no one was living. I would go in there and start ripping through them. Every so often they had the rose issues, and that's where I first got into varieties and learned about the All American selections.

The All American issue always used to have a color ad from Pyle or somebody, an ad about whatever flower was featured, you know. So we're in the late 40s now, and I remember finding one picturing PEACE for the first time.

I had two aunts who were growing a lot of roses, and they had some of these which I could go and see. Now, all the roses my mother had, we didn't know what their names were. She probably picked them up at the dime store or something. So when we moved here in the spring of 1948, my grandmother and my mother went to Willowby's Nursery when all the roses were in bloom. My grandmother was going to buy a tree rose for my

mother as a moving-in present. We went to see them when they were in bloom so that we could see what they looked like. They were impressive to me, and my grandmother and my mother were impressed, too. It turned out that the rose my mother and grandmother wanted was MADAME HENRI GUILLOT. It had wonderful leaves and, of course, it sounded kind of like "Ghio", and that's how they pronounced it. So of course we had to have that one!

I was about nine years old and I was listening to people and listening to what they were buying. I heard someone say that the best red one was CHRISTOPHER STONE. And I told my mother that if you want to buy a red one it has to be Christopher Stone because that's the best one! We looked for Christopher Stone. The only one they had left had only one graft on it, and in those days they usually had at least 4 grafts. We bought it, however, and ended up buying 4 tree roses which we planted here. We had THE DOCTOR, which was a big, giant pink one which I dearly love. And a yellow one, GOLDEN HARVEST, and then came CHRISTOPHER STONE and MADAME HENRI GUILLOT, pronounced "Ghio"!

So that was 1948, the first time I ever grew varieties. Then the next year when we decided to grow tree roses along here, we went through the process a little earlier, and we got eight of them. And the last one, (I still have it) was MRS. PIERRE S. DUPONT. By 1950, now, I'm really into it. At that point, my mother's buying, but I'm determining what we're buying. We're now buying bush roses by variety. We're buying all the All Americans, SUTTER'S GOLD, CAPISTRANO, MISSION BELLS all in fashion in those years, and then we're going back and getting TALLYHO and all these different ones that they are carrying at different nurseries.

We decided to put PAUL'S SCARLET and CLIMBING PEACE on the fence over here. Climbing Peace was a new one that year, and since PEACE was such a hot number we had to have Climbing Peace. That's still out there. It's the oldest rose I have. That was 1950, and the interest in roses has always been there.

And then that fateful year of 1953...We had radio, and when the radio was on I'd flip through magazines. I mean, I'd have to do something, I couldn't just do nothing. And one of the magazines I happened to go through was *Flower Grower*

magazine. In it was that fateful article on the popular iris of 1952 and they described the top 10 of that year. There were different colors, different shapes - and that's how that one started.

Those were all fateful happenings, like with the cymbidiums. Actually it was Ken Moore who was working for Rod McClellan who came over one day with a whole bunch of cymbidiums which got rejected when they sent them to Italy or somewhere, and he brought over this big pile of them. I didn't know what to do with them. I stuck them in the ground. I didn't think they would grow; but they grew beautifully. It is not a big thing for me, but, I did get a few of them later from here and there and have bought an occasional one.

On the dahlias: they're one of those things I've always been impressed with. They do well around here, and there was a lot of breeding going on with them in this area. In fact, when my father was still with me, we would go down to the wharf near the fishmarkets and have a coffee every morning at one of the restaurants down there. These people, the Marlow's Dahlias people, would always bring a few dahlias to the fish market with their carts. So I saw these big, beautiful things, and just couldn't resist them.

So roses, dahlias, and cymbidiums have always been components of my garden. As a breeder, however, my major interest has always been the tall bearded iris because they're a difficult challenge.

Now, I bring to the Pacificas the same goals I endeavor to achieve and am impressed by in the tall bearded. I am impressed by form, by color, and by differentness, that is, a variation of what typically you already have. I am impressed by the fact that you can get a lot more buds and branching and that kind of stuff, and a more attractive plant growth. This latter is not the primary concern, but it's one of those things that, probably by selection, has been happening. When we were looking at BALLETT out there, it would be a perfect example of the perfection in plant growth.

Another factor that is coming in is to get substance in the flowers so that they won't melt when the rain hits them. This can also be considered by some to be a fault, because the old flower doesn't die. It is still there when the new flower comes on to take its place. So that, ironically, becomes a fault, even though you have

accomplished one of your goals.

The most interesting thing in color right now to me is pink, because it's possible, it's there. And what's exciting in a lot of ways is to be on the ground floor of this sort of thing, to be able to experience the advancements. It is like what was going on with tall bearded in the 20s and 30s. I see the pinks in Pacificas today where they were in the 30s and 40s in the tall bearded. I am old enough now, (I've been doing this now for 38 years), and I can recall TB varieties which were old at the time but new to me that are akin to where I am now.

For example, I was thinking of a pink Pacifica, one that bloomed for me two years ago, that was like the tall bearded, OLD PARCHMENT, a buffy-pink. It was really more tannish, but it had hints of pink in it. Well, that one that bloomed 2 years ago I equated with Old Parchment. That's much like what I do when I see things bloom. I think, "That's like whatever-it-was, back when - -" I do that in my mind, but also that's the sort of descriptions I put on my tags when I make my selections. "Like Old Parchment" and notes like that. They don't make sense to anybody but me.

The thing is that you can make quantum leaps so quickly. It certainly seems much more quickly than we did on tall bearded. Still, the next generation from Old Parchment gave things that were already in the CHERIE range of pinks. And that is only one generation from what I thought was a breakthrough in pink. So I don't know, maybe I'm doing something right, or maybe it is something about the way the genetic pool is that makes things move a little bit faster. - So I think, "we'll get those very nice pinks", and that becomes one goal I'm working on because it's a challenge.

Lewis asked Joe if he thought the pinks were going to be like the flamingo pinks in the tall bearded.

Yes. It will be the same type of color pink. It's not going to be the dahlia pink or the rose pink. Right now I'm at the point of clarifying it more, getting the tan out of it.

Orange is another color you can definitely get, I mean really orange. And you can get a red, too. Maybe it would be a rosy-red, but it can be redder than the bearded stuff, in fact they're pretty red now, a lot of them. And there are other things that are really very attractive, like

I have reds with a silver signal. To me that's attractive like the black eye, but its a little silver signal. The flower wasn't that attractive, but it is worth something.

Early on, what I found so interesting, was to get rid of the signal. That happened way back in CALIFORNIA NATIVE days, which was a cross between Violet Elf and Lompico, and that was also the first time seedlings showed that glutinous foliage, that heavy, thick foliage. And in addition came that connection I have observed between the leaves and the flowers which were of heavier substance. Plants having good substance in the leaves usually have flowers with good substance also.

LOS GATOS and CALIFORNIA NATIVE were the two varieties registered from the same cross. California Native turned out to be the significant breeder over Los Gatos, from which I didn't get anything of significance. California Native had one other quality in addition to those LOS GATOS had, it's plus was that it was multi-branched. It made all those branches, and those traits were moved on to the children. So from California Native, the heart of my program, came all those characteristics: the heavy foliage, the multi-branching, the heavy substance of the flower, the beginning of ruffling, and doing away with the signal. All of those traits come from it. It was a fortuitous juxtaposition of genes that came together in that one cultivar, and I was lucky enough to be there and could recognize that it was something different. And I also observed very quickly that in using it in breeding, it did those things and moved them extensively to its children.

Then as I got into this more, I began to acquire other people's things for breeding, or just to see what was going on. I made contact through correspondence with Mrs. Brummitt because she was registering a lot of stuff. And, somehow or other, we traded. And that's how I ended up getting her things here. What impressed me about her things was that, although they didn't have the form, (we're still talking about pretty narrow stuff; she had very specie form), but she had color!

In BANBURY VELVET she had this purple with a sheen on it, which impressed me. And then in BANBURY CANDY and TAPESTRY she had brown tones that were very clear. They weren't muddy like the ones growing wild in the hills here.

And that impressed me. So I immediately crossed CALIFORNIA NATIVE with it, knowing what it would do and hoping to get the color of BANBURY VELVET, and the color of the other ones, which it did. That's what CALIFORNIA NATIVE did. It didn't dominate the colors but it did give its other qualities.

So that was very helpful in getting all those new genetic colors which Mrs. Brummitt had already clarified to a large degree as part of what she was doing. She was doing a lot of specie work, and incorporating her things into my genetic pool allowed me to get the fine purples we have today. I would say that, on the whole, they are the most advanced, not only in color, but in form, in ruffling, - the bubble-ruffling. I was amazed at how quickly we could get the bubble-ruffling which took much longer with the bearded iris. Already they're bubbling all over the place.

Another thing that's exciting now is tricolors. You get falls of one color, standards in another, and then a very contrasty signal. And usually the signal is blue or a neon violet, which is kind of attractive. The signal is not the defuse signal that bothers me, but it's a very precise kind of contrasty, appealing signal.

And I also like one I have that is basically yellow with a black spot on the falls. Right now the spot isn't too large. You really have to look for it, but it has this Aril look to it. Certainly I wasn't breeding for that, it just showed up and I was surprised to find it. I would like the black spot to be bigger, but that isn't quite there yet.

The problem is, really, that I need a lot more land. It isn't lack of time, it's the amount of land that keeps me restricted. It holds me back from making more crosses. And then I do the bearded, too, but fortunately the PCI's end up just before the bearded. What I end up doing is, I use the same process I use in breeding the Pacificas, as I do the bearded.

I don't make many crosses early in the season. That's a time of observation. It's a time of looking at flowers and plants, and looking at pedigrees, and observing traits that seem to be happening in a line, or through a parent like CALIFORNIA NATIVE. It's something like, - (I can't quite explain it), it's being internalized. Pretty soon I begin seeing the same seedling appearing again and again in

one line, and once that impresses me for some reason, I begin to say that that cross is doing these kind of things. And if that's also what I want to do, I cross the seedlings of it together. I don't usually go back to the parents. I usually move ahead, using seedlings having whatever that line is doing to bring me to whatever I'm doing. And a lot of the time (the bulk of the time), most of the crosses I make seem to have it together and they just begin doing what I wanted them to do. I make more crosses later, and I make some before, but the bulk of them are made in a very short period of time.

Lewis observed that many of the Ghio varieties are quite early, and how could that be when you make few crosses in early season?

I am blessed by climate that makes things bloom over a long period of time, so that early plants may still have bloom later. I may be using the last blooms in the breeding, or an occasional off-beat bloom from mid-season on. I'm observing, and I'm probably more in tune to watching the early ones. They have made the first impression and I am tending to use them more.

I think that if you are going to be a good breeder, you must also have a good memory. I think that it is probably the mark of demarcation between an average hybridizer and someone who moves in a different echelon. After all these years and despite all these records that have been written down, the important things are really here in the brain, the memory.

When I see a pedigree, I can recall a plant that's now back there 10 generations or so as one of its ancestors. Then I remember that its problem was that its standards had a sort of a little flip to the top that was bothersome for it, and that's why it never made it in the market. That type of remembrance builds with experience, and it is an invaluable tool in breeding. I know these things about my pedigrees that nobody else knows. That's why I feel that you can't really finish anybody else's line. You can take over when they're gone and continue it, but you can never do what they would have done, You don't have that intimate knowledge that was in their brain.

Adele asked Joe if he keeps track of his crosses as he makes them, or if he writes them up later.

I type them afterwards. See all these notes. These are just the bearded. I

haven't done the Pacificas yet, and they should be done by now, but I just haven't had the time.

In addition to the notes on these pages, I have a list with the pedigree and a short description. I don't really use it much except that the pedigrees get so complex that sometimes you might need to go back and see what you noted about certain plants. For instance, this one says, "smallest, smooth crimson form". That's all it says. Others say: "very veined apricot, yellow signal, very ruffled", "near black, nice light violet edge on standards and falls. Startling". These are the short notations I put on the crossing tag. "Pleasing desert twilight colors, deeper signal, horizontal falls with 45 degree standards". These are all Pacificas, and the pedigree is here, too.

I don't yet have a list of this year's crosses, but I have to get at it soon because I've got to start planting. I probably have about 100 takes this year, which is more than usual. Mostly they run about 75. During 1988 for example, there were 225 tall bearded crosses and 75 Pacificas. The next year there were 226 tall bearded and 88 Pacificas. That's kind of an average of how it goes.

Another thing I've been doing that will be of interest to you, is that I'm impressed by the blues that you have been doing. And that is taking up an increasing amount of breeding time. My goal is that they will grow easily. I did use SIERRA DELL a lot because it impressed me with its bud count and branching and so forth. It gave very poor flower form, however, even when crossed with nicely formed things. I am moving on a generation to see if I can get the Ghio form into that blue. I'm using Miramar-Idylwild,

and Montara-Idylwild, taking this first generation stuff and crossing it with SIERRA DELL. I used SIERRA STARS, all those things you developed, but mainly Sierra Dell. These are things I have to do to get distinctiveness into it, the Ghio form. It is still not there. I am only in the second generation. So that's something else that's happening.

Next year is my blue year. I think blues are going to be a big third of the crop. It takes a lot to grow those because it is more of a challenge to get what I want. I've got the background material out there, and the growth seems to be all right, but it's the form and the substance. And as I said, it will be about a third of my planting.

We asked Joe what else was new.

There's this guy, Rosendale. He was with Soquel Nursery and now he has started his own nursery over in Watsonville. He bought some varieties from me, and he called me this year and asked if I would do consulting. Well, I had never thought of this; but why shouldn't I be paid for what I know? So I said, "Sure, I'll consult." So now I'm making up a card. I can consult on anything now.

One last word from the editors: We think Joe could get top consulting dollar if he could coach students on how to imitate his hearty, infectious, spontaneous trademark laugh! As we read the written words and then listen to the tape, we realize that his bubbling enthusiasm, (what other kind could it be?), and his laugh that punctuates his commentary all through the interview is impossible to convey. It goes along with his personality, his delight in striving for goals, and his confidence in achieving them.

JACK CRAIG LETTER

[Ed. note] The following is a letter from Jack Craig to Joe Ghio, written after Jack moved to Japan.. It was given to us by Joe

after the foregoing interview, and explains a little more about the Craig material which Joe used in his early crosses.

Dec. 27, 1970

Dear Joe:

Last week I heard from Leroy Davidson that you were introducing a series of new Western native irises and that he hoped to grow them! The ones which I grew in California were mostly seedlings raised from crosses which I made of the best selections in the Mitchell garden. They were of douglasiana-innominata parentage. The better ones came to the Mitchell garden from Danks in Australia.

Many years ago the Mitchells collected as many of the *Californicae*

irises as possible and sent them to Danks who hybridized them and produced a quite superior strain. From seeds of these sent back to California by Danks came the Mitchell things. Mitchell really didn't work on them himself. After working with them as you have for a number of generations, it is natural that you would get lines going which would much resemble one or the other original parents; *innominata* or *douglasiana*.

Luckily the California natives seem to do well here in Japan. I have a number of them in pots and am most anxious to get settled with a proper garden where I can grow them properly. Have you seen any of the new Lenz things? They are so superior that they are unbelievable. Before leaving California, I got him to part with 4 of his numbered seedlings, but unfortunately Roy Oliphant who kept them for me, had bad luck with them. Two were blues, one with turquoise crest, and one was beige with a sharp, plum-purple, *oncocyclus*-like signal patch.

Your new introductions sound very good and I hope someday to be able to grow them here.

Sincerely yours

(s) Jack Craig

EXPEDITION 1992

May 16th and 17th, 1992 is the date to save for next year's Expedition. We plan to visit the most northwestern area of California in Del Norte County, and to wander over the border into Curry and Josephine Counties, Oregon. We should be able to see *Ii. douglasiana*, *innominata*, *bracteata*, *chrysophylla*, *thompsonii*, and species hybrids.

Details are not finalized, but Larry Moss, of Trinidad, who has contributed articles to the *Almanac*, (including this one), will be largely responsible for the arrangements. We may start from Arcata, which can be reached by air, and, although this date may be late for peak bloom of *douglasiana*, there will surely be bloom along the coast. We will see beautiful redwood country with the accompany-

ing *Azalea occidentale*, and many other wild flowers. In addition to Larry's garden, our prime target will be the lavender to purple *Iris innominata* out of Smith River on the High Divide, Low Divide Roads in the Siskiyou. These are as attractive as the yellow and orange ones we have seen on previous trips, and in addition, they grow in an area with an alpine, rock garden look. They are accompanied by many other compact flowers and shrubs which makes this area as spectacular as any we have seen anywhere.

Farther north we will see *bracteata*, *chrysophylla*, and *thompsonii*. Much planning remains to be done, but if you are interested in details when they are developed, please write to the SPCNI Secretary, Adele Lawyer.

EXPEDITION 1991

Adele Lawyer

Expedition 1991 took place in northwestern Oregon, east of Portland and Salem, roughly 100 odd miles from the Pacific Coast. The trip was planned by Claude and Joanne Derr, who spent much time exploring the area in preparation.

Headquartered comfortably at the Monarch Motor Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon, the group of 42 participants boarded busses at 8:30 on the mornings of June 1 and 2.

On the first day we headed east on 212

to Highway 26, and south to Sandy where our first stop was to the side of the highway where a steep road cut sheltered a stand of *I. douglasiana* which had naturalized in the midst of lush grasses, nearly 200 miles from its northernmost habitat on the coast in Coos County. Although it was probably introduced, it is nevertheless thriving and looks completely at home.

From there we turned off onto 211 and stopped near the intersection with 224.

Here, along the road were *I. tenax*, and possibly some introduced *I. douglasiana* and hybrids between the two. A meadow situation on one side of the road, and a steep bank below a planting of cane berries on the other side, provided easy access for photographers. The color variation from lavender to red-violet, and the full-petaled flowers were the object of much admiration.

Evansias was especially impressive since they are endemic to this very restricted area, yet within it they are more vigorous and prolific than any of the *Californicae*, with the possible exception of *I. douglasiana*. Unfortunately, none of these were yet in bloom because of the unusually cold, wet winter and spring. We were disappointed, but the Derrs promised us a look at them at a lower elevation. We



Group at 4th stop on Highway 224.

To get to our next stop at the Derr's home, we left Highway 224 on Fall Creek Road which dead ends at Divers Road. Here we turned right on Squaw Mountain Road over which we drove until we turned off on southeast Log La Barre, where the Derrs live at 36488.

This was our lunch site, and before and after we ate the lunches which we had picked up at Estacada, we had time to admire our surroundings. The Derrs have planted many types of iris in addition to Pacificas: *I. missouriensis*, many other species iris, *enstata*, *fulva*, *setosa*, *versicolor*, *virginica*, Siberians, Japanese, Cal-Sibes, and of course, all heights of bearded iris. The special quality of their garden, however, is its location in a clearing in the midst of native trees. Rhododendrons and *Iris tenax* are native here, and the Derrs have collected and transplanted additional clones of iris from areas where widening of the roads would have destroyed them.

After lunch we proceeded east on Squaw Mountain Road 12 miles to Road 120 where there were whole hillsides of *I. tenuis* plants. This enormous stand of

turned around and returned on Squaw Mountain Road to Divers Road, then right on Fall Creek Road to Highway 224. About one and a half miles from that turnoff we made our fourth stop at a wonderful stand of *tenax* on the left side of the road. There

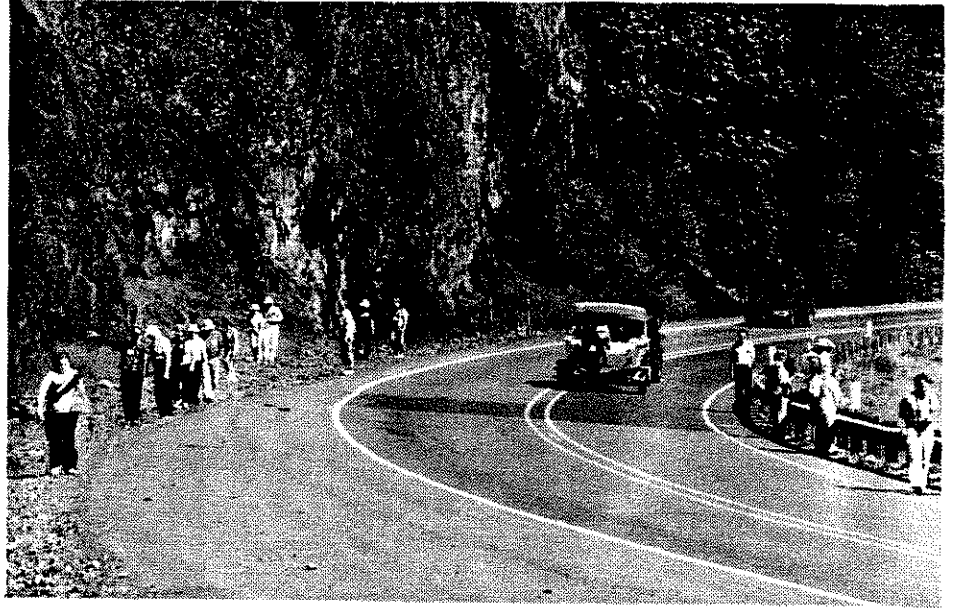


Group admires *mimulus* while Glenn Corlew takes care of details.

was much variation in color and shape here. Some had wide petals, some narrower, and a few dipped downward abruptly at the hafts, as if they were members of another series. The clumps were widely photographed.

We then continued on Highway 224 to Roaring River Camp Ground, and there was much excitement when we stepped off the bus, walked into the moist woodland, and saw our first *Iris tenuis*. They were not profuse as they were at the higher elevation where they were holding back on bloom, but they were exquisite, dainty plants and flowers. White, with raised yellow crests and a touch of purple, their coloration was much like some of the *Dietes* we

grow. We walked up the trail along the stream, which was indeed roaring. On the trail banks, dripping with moisture, we saw sedum, ferns, Western *Stenanthium*

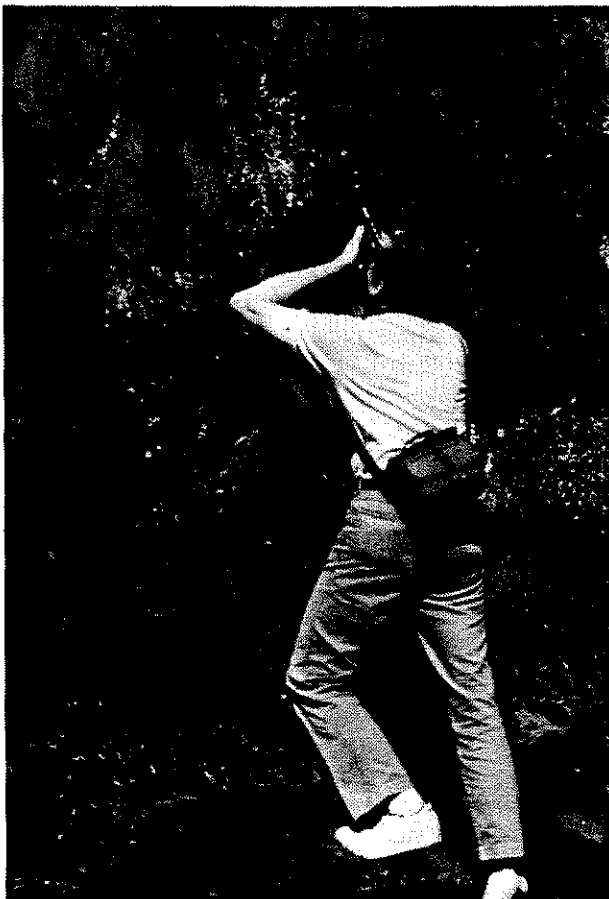


Rocky monolith on 224.

Stenanthium occidentale, and Crevice Heuchera, *Heuchera micrantha*. At the trail summit in a sunny clearing, there were many more *tenuis* in bloom. What a treat it was to see a species of iris we had never seen before, and such a charming representative of our favorite flower! We were glad to hear that the Derrs would return to collect seed to offer to our members in the Fall *Almanac* listing.

On our return from Roaring River on 224, our sixth stop was at the base of a rocky monolith where clinging yellow sedum, and especially the hot pink flowers of *Penstemon rupicola* enthralled us. They were a bit tantalizing, since the individual clumps were clinging happily in wet, rock crevices far above touching range, and more importantly, beyond the range of most our cameras, as well. Ken Chambers, one of our native plant specialists, found the showy mimulus at the base of the cliff difficult to identify because of the variability in both size of flower and height of the individual plants. Its bright yellow flower was accented by a brilliant red central spot on the lower lip. *Mimulus alsinoides* was the tentative conclusion, although some of the plants were triple the height usual for that species.

Across the road we looked far down the slope to the Collawash River. Yellow broom in the foreground accented a spectacular vista encompassing the river and



R.D. Kenitzer photographs pentstemon on cliff.

fir-covered mountains fading into the distance.

We then returned to Estacada where we had dinner together at a restaurant and were treated to a talk by Professor Zhou Yu-Tang, President of the Botanical Society of China, who accompanied us on the Expedition. He illustrated his talk with a video of the irises native to China. Seeing the iris swaying in the breeze gave them a special impact. It was impressive to see such large, showy flowers, unlike our more modest Pacificas, growing in the wild. Among those represented were *I. ensata*, *sanguinea*, *laevigata*, *tenuifolia*, *confusa*, *wattii*, *forrestii*, *lactea*, and *chrysographes*.

We returned to the hotel and a few of us attended an open meeting which is reported elsewhere in this issue.

On June 2nd, we took I-5 south and hesitated along the road so that visitors from afar could see one of Schreiners' increase fields, looking like an earth-bound version of a rainbow.



Kim Blaxland photographs the Schreiner garden.

The first stop was off the Silverton Highway at Duane and Joyce Meek's home and Gardens on Howell Prairie Road. Here we saw where our immediate past-President, Duane, had recently relocated from Concord, California. The grounds were beautifully landscaped, and we were fortunate to be able to see many of his seedling PCI's still in bloom because of the unseasonably cold weather. We looked over the many outstanding tall bearded varieties and seedlings, as well. When Joyce Meek opened her iris artifact area for the first time there were many of us who wished we had the time to purchase

more of her iris-decorated treasures.

We next stopped at Cooley's Iris Gardens and saw their extensive tall bearded display garden which was at peak bloom.



Glenn Corlew braves the brambles for a tenax.

Leaving there, we proceeded on 214 through Sublimity to Highway 22 where we went east to a stop between Detroit and Idanha. Here we saw colonies identified as *Iris chrysophylla*, but looking quite different from those seen on the Cow Creek loop road on the 1989 SPCNI Expedition. Their style crests were not a dominant feature, being substantially shorter here at Detroit Lake. We stopped at the nearby Detroit Ranger Station, ate lunch on the bus, and saw some *chrysophylla* and *douglasiana*.

Next, we reversed our direction on 22, and at Gates we crossed over the Santiam River and took the road to Monument Peak, which is mapped as 4683 feet high, and the climax of our exposure to *Iris tenax*.

The area has been logged, favoring the proliferation of the iris, and over an area of a few hundred acres, natural hybridization has resulted in more tenax color variation than could be imagined! Colors ranged from white to cream, yellow, pale blue, darker blue, violet, pink, and red-purple. Tour members separated into singles or small groups and were scattered all over the mountain, many out of sight

of each other. Some wandered almost to the mountain's peak, others went just as far to either side, and still others did not venture far from the paved road, depending upon their mood and/or physical agility. The only negative was the lack of attractive accompanying wild flowers, and the presence of extensive competing blackberry bushes which protested our presence by leaving some serious scars on legs and arms.

This was a treasure trove for students of this species. Not only was the spectrum of color quite amazing, but the character of the compact but husky clumps made them ideal garden material. They had broad petals on the whole, and while most were tailored, others were distinctly ruffled. Considering the altitude and northern latitude, seed from these plants might give a boost to our breeding program for cold-hardiness.

We hated to leave the area. None of us felt we had exhausted the directions we had wished to explore, nor spent enough time planning the optimum framing to picture the iris; but we had to get back to

the hotel so that those flying home could make timely connections. It was a fine tour and the Derr's efforts were much appreciated.

Those attending were: From California: Glenn & Nell Corlew, Louis and Caroline Fry, Diana Jones, Ted Kipping, Lewis and Adele Lawyer, David and Evelyn Lennette, Eugene and Joanne Loop, Robert Plank, Ed and Mary Ralston, Richard and Marty Richards, Clarice Richards, Colin and Teresa Rigby. From Oregon: Roger Brewer, Ken and Henrietta Chambers, Joanne and Claude Derr, Florence Ebeling, William and Jeanne Ferrell, Ruth Jackson, Bennett and Evelyn Jones, and Charlotte Keasey. From Washington: Debby Cole, Ruth Grainger, Diane and R.D. Kenitzer Jr., George Lankow, Carla McGavran, Maybeth Pressley, and Jean Witt. From afar: Kim Blaxland (Radnor, PA), Richard Kiyomoto (North Haven, CT), Dora Sparrow (Christchurch, New Zealand), and Zhou Yu-Tang, (Changchun, China).

Photos: Derrs and Lawyers

THE PCI BORER, A NEW PROBLEM

Adele Lawyer

We first heard about this new problem from Jenny Fleming who is active in the California Native Plant Society and the Bay-Area Regional Park's Botanic Garden, and who has featured an extensive planting of Pacific Coast native iris in her own garden. She reported that some kind of borer was causing damage to her Pacificas. The leaves turned a shade of yellow, unlike the tan or brown of senescence, and the affected plant died. We were interested but not concerned since we had not seen nor heard of such a problem from anyone else.

In 1991, however, we heard from two other subscribers to the *Almanac*, both in Marin County, reporting identical symptoms; and Jenny Fleming's affected plants were more numerous than ever before. When Loretta Figueroa, of Mill Valley called us, the symptoms she detailed pointed to the possibility of the same borer, and when we checked with Jenny she confirmed like symptoms.

We went to Loretta's garden where her PCI's have always grown lush and lovely, but now the numerous tell tale yellow

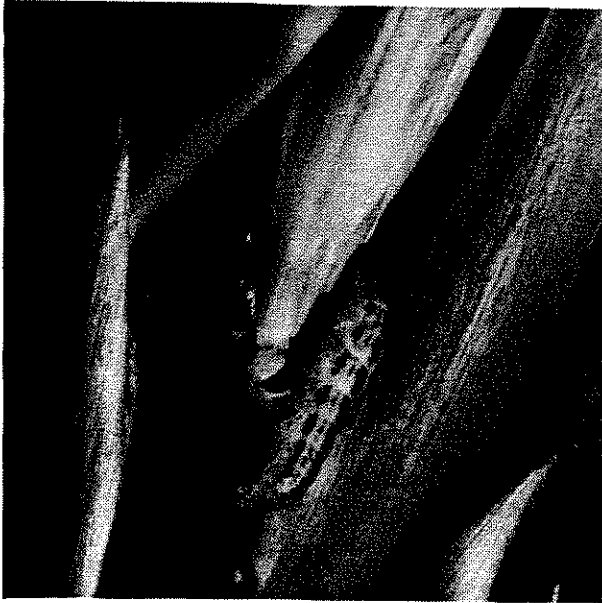
leaves were conspicuous throughout the garden.

First indication of trouble was a small hole at the growing point. (Those we saw were at the base of the flower.) Yellowing followed, the leaves pulled off with ease, and frass was present at their base at the crown. Dissecting the stem, the tunneling, which widened as the caterpillar fed, was clearly apparent. We collected samples, including a small caterpillar found within the stalk.

On Loretta's property, where she grows hybrid PCI's, there was an apparent difference in susceptibility. In one instance, two cultivars had increased to the extent that they overlapped. Of the two, CANYON SNOW was heavily infested, but BIG MONEY was not. Other heavily infested varieties were AMIQUITA, PACIFIC HIGH, PEANUT GALLERY, and SUZIE KNAPP. Jenny Fleming's PCI's are all species and she reports that all seem to be susceptible.

After viewing the extensive damage caused by the borer we went to the University of California's Botanical Garden to

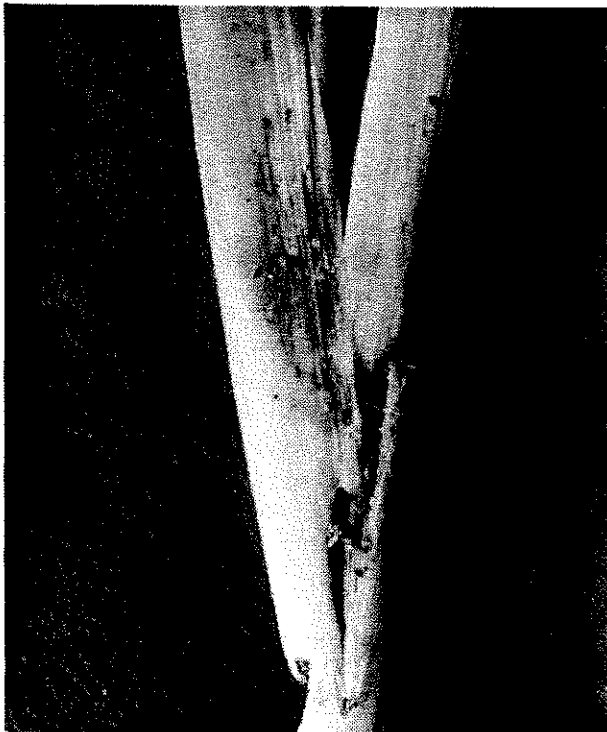
see if there was any evidence of the problem in that area where so many native iris were growing. And indeed there was! The douglasiana, growing in profusion to the right of the principal entry path in the California section, showed many yellowing leaves. When we pulled them, the



Amphipoea americana var. *pacifica*, 2X.

tell-tale frass was present. We split many of the affected stalks to view the tunneling, and in one we found a mature caterpillar which we collected.

The two caterpillars were taken to the University's Entomology Department, and



Borer damage.

were given to their Lepidoptera expert, Dr. Jerry Powell. They could not be identified, however, until and unless they pupated. This was in April. The smaller of the caterpillars did not survive, but the fat one from the University took his time, and we received the report on his metamorphosis in mid-September. Dr. Powell identified it as the same cream colored nocturnal moth responsible for the larva within the the pods which eats the seed of



Frass on an opened bloom stalk.

Pacifica iris. This habit of *Amphipoea americana* var. *pacifica* has long been recognized, but its activity as a borer has not been known. *Macronoctua onusta*, a different critter with similar symptoms is a serious pest of tall bearded iris in the midwest, the eastern United States, and elsewhere except in the Pacific states.

Control measures for the eastern borer are cleanup of debris at the base of the plants to destroy the pupa, and insecticidal spraying in the early spring when the larva emerge.

We checked with Loretta Figueroa who told us that many clumps had been severely decimated and a few, notably, PEANUT GALLERY, were killed. We were unable to contact Jenny Fleming, but at the U.C. Botanical Garden, in the area where we had noted numerous infested plants in the spring, no additional damage was apparent.

GROWING PACIFICAS DESPITE DIFFICULTIES

1. A TRANSPLANT TO NEW MEXICO

Audrey Roe New Mexico

[Audrey Roe has been a member of SPCNI since 1978 when she was growing Pacificas at Agoura, in southern California near Thousand Oaks off the Ventura Freeway. The conditions in her new location in Albuquerque, New Mexico are much more hostile to PCI's, nevertheless Audrey is trying to grow them and tells us of her progress in a recent letter.]

I planted some seed in the fall of 1988 with good germination in the spring of 1989. Some were potted singly and some were left in the original germination pot, all for lack of planting space.



Audrey Roe's yellow seedling.

In the spring of '90, five were planted in a bed with Louisianas. The winter of '90-'91 had some low lows. I had 6° for two mornings and 0° for two mornings. The plants in pots were ruined. (I had neglected to overwinter them in the garage as I had in their first winter.) The plants in the ground survived and two bloomed this past spring!

The enclosed photographs don't reveal anything spectacular, but I am so delighted with them. The seed came from Signa. I do think planting the seed is likely the best method of growing them here, but I have not tried ordering any plants.



Audrey Roe's blue seedling

2. PCI'S IN VIRGINIA

Robert Ward, Arkansas

Here is a photo of a PCI in the Michael Nicholls garden in Gainesville, VA. There are actually two plants in this picture, but one is just behind the other. The plants are 5 years old.



PCI plant in the Michael Nichols garden.

3. GROWING PACIFICAS IN MAINE

John W. White

We live 35 to 40 miles north of Portland, Maine, in Minot, on the northwest side of Auburn. Winter temperatures of 10° to -10° are common, and sometimes it drops to minus 20°. Most years we have good snow cover, 12 to 24 inches. This past winter we had only 4 to 8 inches of snow and quite a lot of rain. This caused icing over the plants, about 2 inches over our TB iris, which caused a lot of damage.

Five years ago I raised eight Pacificas from seed and got them through two winters. In the winter of 1988 we had a light snowfall, lots of rain, and a heavy icing of 3 to 6 inches over these plants. Also they were planted in a location where the drainage was not as good as it should have been. Of course they all died.

In January and February of 1990, I planted Signa seed in 6- x 8-inch peat flats

in the house. When they germinated and were about 1 inch high, I picked them out and planted them in 2-inch pots in a potting soil. By mid July I had 42 seedlings, 3 to 4 inches tall, which I set out in an area of good drainage and partial shade. Thirty of these seedlings survived the winter of 1990 - 91 and are growing well, despite the fact that this winter was what we refer to as "an open winter", not much snow, and too much rain and icing.

Richard Kiyomoto gave me 4 potted plants in July, 1990; these I planted outside. Only one survived the winter, but that one, a seedling of Richard's, bloomed this year in June with a nice white flower with light blue veining.

I think that the Pacificas have beautiful colors and patterns that we do not get with our Siberians. To develop cold-hardy varieties is what Richard Kiyomoto and I are trying to do, and if hybridizers in California can develop heat-resistant varieties, Richard and I, given time, can develop some cold-hardy ones.

PCI TETRAPLOIDS ?

John W. White, Maine

This past winter, in January and February, of 1991, I planted seed which I had received from Terry Aitken, Richard Kiyomoto via the Abregos, Duane Meek, and from Signa. About half of this seed was started in Petri dishes on damp, sterile paper, and the rest was started in peat flats. When the seed germinated in the dish (or flat) and the leaf was about a half-inch tall, I treated half the seed in .03 percent colchicine. Each seed was dropped into a test tube containing 1 to 2 inches of the colchicine. Most of the seed was left in the colchicine for 12 hours, but some was left for 16, 18, and 24 hours. The seed was then rinsed in a strainer under lukewarm water for 2 to 3 minutes and planted. The other half of the seed, untreated, was planted in 2-inch pots of planting mix.

I could see no appreciable difference in the survival rate of the seedlings, regardless of the time that they were left in the colchicine. I found that the seedlings raised in flats and treated with colchicine had a more rugged root system than those germinated in petri dishes and treated with colchicine. Also, the survival rate of

the seedlings from flats was better, about 30 percent as compared to 10 percent for those raised in the Petri dishes. It would appear that the more-rugged plants tolerated the colchicine treatment better.

All seeds started in Petri dishes had been treated with a fungicide, then stored in the refrigerator for about two months before starting the colchicine treatment. I did have some trouble with mold developing in the Petri dishes. The seed planted directly into peat flats had no mold problems.

After the seedlings were planted in pots following treatment, they developed a stunted look, and were darker green and thicker at the base of the leaves than the untreated plants. It was about 3 months before the treated plants started to grow, whereas the untreated plants were 6 to 8 inches tall by that time.

Dr. Currier McEwen came to see these seedlings and felt that they were induced tetraploids. Only if we can get them to flowering stage and can check the pollen under the microscope, (or better yet get a chromosome count), can we be reasonably certain.

I have 11 of these T1 plants growing in pots outside. They are now 3 to 4 inches tall. The untreated diploid plants are 6 to 12 inches tall.

You may wonder why I have been doing the colchicine treatment with Pacificas. It is mostly out of curiosity to see how it may affect the plant, the flower color, and the substance of the flower. Although frost resistance is one of our pri-

mary objectives, I doubt that colchicine will have any influence on it.

At present I have 75 Pacificas, 11 of which I believe to be tetraploids. It certainly is fun working with these lovely flowers, but I would not be surprized if half of them died this next winter. When and if we can get some of them to flowering stage, we can work on cold-hardy varieties, whether diploid or tetraploid.

A LETTER FROM SAKALIN ISLAND, USSR

Dr. Vladimir I. Safonov

Ed. note: In early 1990, We received a request from Dr. Safonov for temporary membership in the SPCNI, even though it would be "impossible for me to pay because of the inconvertibility of our money". SPCNI has sent him the Cohen and Lenz publications, some seed, and some selected back issues of the *Almanac*. Bob Ward, who speaks and writes Russian, has also been in contact with him.

August 17, 1991

Dear Colleagues:

It was a great pleasure for me to receive several issues of your *Almanac* where so much valuable information is concentrated. Thus we have now a good amount of information on various topics to start our own experiments with Pacifica Irises.

Since I am an instructor at the local Young Naturalist's Station, (we are a part of the All-Union network of such stations for educational work among teenagers), I'll have two groups of young people interested in floriculture and ready to participate in their spare time.

I have prepared a good piece of ground especially devoted to irises, (soil is enriched with leaf mould, has free draining properties, is slightly acid, etc.) So we are almost ready to start, but we lack seeds of any kind. Perhaps some amount of surplus seeds could be available from your

sources. Unhappily, we can't buy anything for hard currency, - you know our situation. We could only exchange seeds for seeds or books, etc. We would like to have both native and hybrid seeds that are surplus.

We have some nice native plants here, whose seeds are available and could be suitable for your natural conditions (even in California). Moreover, I have good relations with many botanical institutions in the country, which are good sources of seed, too.

I hope you have a good vegetation period this summer. We have had moist weather for many weeks, very cloudy and cool enough (abnormal summer). But we have enormous amounts of salmon fishes in our rivers. This is our hope for this year, which is very unhappy for the whole country's economy.

Best wishes and cordial regards,
Vladimir Safonov

If any of you would care to correspond with Dr. Safonov, his address is:

Dr. V.I. Safonov, Botanist,
Institute of Marine Geology and
Geophysics, Academy of Sciences,
СССР, 693002, Дивно-Сахалинск,
ул. Науки 1, кв. 46,
к.б.н. САФОНОВУ В.И.
Sakhalin Island, U.S.S.R.

HELP WANTED

Help! I'm looking for PCI's that are fragrant, either seeds or plants.

Joanne Derr, 36488 Log La Barre,
Estacada, OR 97023.

1991-1992 SEED EXCHANGE LIST

Seeds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All seeds are priced at \$1.00 for the first packet, and \$.50 for each additional packet. Please order by number. Make checks payable to SPCNI, and address orders to Louis & Caroline Fry, 4 Renata Court, Novato, CA 94947.

Unless otherwise specified, all seeds are open-pollinated with only the pod parent known.

—§—

From the garden of Lewis & Adele Lawyer:

I. Named Cultivars (all are O.P. and may be influenced by *I. munzii* pollen)

91001 Amiguita	91002 Aptos
91003 Augie	91004 Banbury Gnome
91005 Endless	91006 Garden Delight
91007 Honta Yo	91008 In the Money
91009 Latin Blood	91010 Queen Califia
91011 Roaring Camp	91012 San Gregorio
91013 Solid Citizen	91014 Something Wild
91015 Sugar Candy	91016 Sundance Eight
91017 Susie Knapp	91018 Villa Branciforte
91019 Western Hero	91020 Wild Man
91021 Wild Time	

II. Named Cultivars (Species)

91022 Harland Hand *I. douglasiana*
 91023 Lemonade Springs and Moonlad
I. innominata
 91024 *I. innominata* from Siskiyou Nursery
 (may have *munzii* influence)
 91025 *I. innominata alba* cream white form
 91026 Candy Banner: Valley Banner type
 91027 Foothill Banner: Valley Banner × Lawyer
I. munzii-derived seedling
 91028 Mendocino Banner: *I. douglasiana* Valley
 Banner type
 91029 XP64BD (Half *I. munzii*) Valley Banner
 type

III. Munzii types

91030 Abell 10—from Thornton Abell
 91031 Abell 11—good source of blue
 91032 Abell 66-44-30—good source of blue
 91033 Claremont Blue Sky (Lenz)
 91034 Sierra Sapphire (Lenz) *I. munzii*
 91035 Sierra Butterflies (Lawyer) good source
 of blue and of branching
 91036 Sierra Dell (Lawyer) good blue
 91037 Sierra Stars (Lawyer)
 91038 Soquel Cove (Ghio) good flower and plant

IV. Lawyer Munzii -derived hybrids

91039 XP43B: Lawyer XP1F (half *I. munzii*) ×
munzii pollen from dark blue flower in
 the Sierras

91040 XP62B: Dark blue Lawyer sdlg. × Luihn
 91041 XP69B: Lawyer sdlg. × Sierra Butterflies
 —shorter (10 ")

91042 XP91H: Lawyer sdlg. × Lenz sdlg.
 91043 XP120A: Sierra Dell × Claremont Blue Sky
 91044 XP133A: Sierra Dell × Lawyer-Lenz sdlg.
 91045 XP137A: Lawyer sdlg. × Lawyer sdlg.
 Good *munzii*-type flower on a very vig-
 orous plant.

91046 XP142: Sierra Dell × Lenz sdlg.
 91047 XP143: Sierra Dell × Lenz sdlg.
 91048 XP157A: Lawyer sdlg. × Lenz sdlg.
 91049 XP164A: Lawyer sdlg. × Lenz sdlg.
 91050 XP165A: Lawyer sdlg. × Claremont
 Bluejay
 91051 XP167: Fairy Chimes × Lawyer *munzii*
 sdlg.

91052 XP170: Sierra Dell × Lawyer sdlg.
 91053 XP175B: Sierra Dell × Abell 11.
 Good blue.

91054 XP177G: Foothill Banner × Lawyer
munzii sdlg. Possible Valley Banner
 types.

91055 XP185A: Lawyer sdlg. × Lawyer sdlg.
 91056 XP192: Lawyer sdlg. × Lawyer sdlg.
 Possible dwarf blues.

91057 XP196: Lawyer sdlg. × Lenz sdlg.
 91058 XP197: Lawyer sdlg. × Lawyer sdlg.
 91059 XP202: Sierra Dell × XP143E
 91060 XP203: Sierra Dell × XP143F
 91061 XP204: Sierra Dell × XP143G
 91062 XP206: Sierra Dell × Claremont Sierra
 Blue

91063 XP209A: Sierra Dell × Lawyer sdlg.
 91064 XP215: Lawyer sdlg. × Lawyer sdlg.
 (involves Lenz sdlg.)

V. Seed from prior lists not duplicated above:

91065 Ami Royal 91066 Banbury Princess
 91067 Mixed garden hybrids, normal types

—§—

From the garden of Duncan Eader:

91068 Amiguita
 91069 Amiguita and Ojai
 91070 Canyon Orchid
 91071 Orchid Sprite
 91072 Mixed seed from the Ralph Conrad garden
 91073 Misc. good hybrid seedlings
 91074 Hybrid sdlg., rosy violet self veined darker
 violet, 5 flowers, 2 branches, 18", from
 Stambach breeding
 91075 Assorted seed from named and unnamed
 cultivars, OP and excess from crosses

From Claude and Joanne Derr: (these are the
irises seen on the 1991 Trek)

- 91076 *I. chrysophylla*, coll. near Detroit Dam, OR
91077 *I. douglasiana*, from the garden
91078 *I. douglasiana-tenax* hybrid, OP
91079 *I. tenax*, pink-lavender, from the garden
91080 *I. tenax*, collected on Monument Peak
(wide color range)
91081 *I. tenuis*, collected in Clackamas Co., OR
—§—

From Dr. John Weiler: (Fresno, CA; these are
from plants which have survived consid-
erable heat)

- 91082 Rincon, OP
91083 Weiler PCN seedlings, OP (from seedlings
being considered for introduction)
91084 OP seeds from named clones of garden
hybrids (predominantly Western Queen,
Canyon Snow, Amiguita, Joey, Native
Jewel, Palo Alto, Pajaro Dunes, Upper
Echelon, plus 22 others)
—§—

From Colin Rigby:

- 91085 Mixed garden hybrids
91086 Mini-Ma, OP
91087 *I. munzii* garden hybrids
—§—

From Dick Richards:

- 91088 [Possibly *douglasiana-purdyi* natural
hybrid; collected along Mattole Rd. a few
miles W. of Hwy. 101. Plant appeared like
douglasiana, seeds are more like *purdyi*]
—§—

From the garden of Dora Sparrow:

- 91089 A mixture of tall, strong *douglasiana*,
thought to have come from Lee Lenz
seed a few generations back. Good colors,
broad flowers.
—§—

Collected in Oregon by Bill and Jeanne Ferrell:

- 91090 *I. chrysophylla*, Camas Summit, Douglas
County
91091 *I. bracteata*, Whiskey Creek, Josephine Co.
91092 *I. innominata*, China Flat Rd., Coos Co.
91093 *I. innominata*, above Agness, Curry Co.
91094 *I. tenax*, Botkin Creek, Benton Co.
—§—

Open-pollinated seed from University of
California Botanical Garden, collected
by the Lawyers

- 91095 *I. douglasiana*, Humboldt Co., CA
91096 *I. douglasiana*, San Francisco, CA
91097 *I. douglasiana*, Marin Co., CA
91098 *I. douglasiana*, Sonoma Co., CA

Collected by Gene and Joanne Loop:

- 91099 *I. macrosiphon*, Lake Co., CA
91100 *I. macrosiphon*, Sonoma Co., CA
91101 *I. macrosiphon-purdyi* natural hybrid,
Sonoma Co., CA
—§—

Collected by Jon Splane:

- 91102 *I. innominata*, near Agness, OR; possibly
orchid colors
—§—

Collected by Bill Janssen and Diana Reeck:

- 91103 *I. tenax*, collected on Silver Star Mtn.,
SW Washington, 3000' elevation
—§—

From Allan Taylor via Gwen Kalidis:

- 91104 *I. douglasiana*, originally from Santa Cruz
Mountains, CA; grown over 30 years in
Colorado
—§—

From Louis and Caroline Fry:

- 91105 *I. douglasiana*, collected in Marin Co., CA
91106 *I. douglasiana v. major* (hand pollinated)
91107 *I. fernaldii* (hand pollinated)
91108 *I. macrosiphon*, collected in Marin Co., CA
91109 *I. munzii* (hand pollinated)
91110 Candy Banner, OP
91111 Idylwild, OP
—§—

From countless sources:

- 91112 Mixed garden hybrids and species, both
collected and open pollinated in gardens;
the catch-all jar, constantly replenished
to keep it truly "a little of everything"
—§—

We would like to express our sincere thanks to
all the generous collectors and donors who make
this list and the seed exchange work. Please note
on your order whether you would prefer a refund
or substitution if the varieties you ordered are
out of stock. If you have any preferences for
substitutions, please list them.

Because seed donations do not always arrive
in time to be included in the listing published in
the *Almanac*, we continue the policy of record-
ing special requests while making no promises.
If you are looking for a species or type not listed
here, ask for it but do not include it in your pay-
ment. Should the seed be or become available, it
will be sent as a bonus. The same applies to rem-
nants or packets received with too few seeds to
list, so please be sure to mention anything spe-
cial you are interested in having. Please renew
any unfilled special requests each year so we
will know you are still interested in the seeds.

REPORT FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Duncan Eader, Arcadia

This has been a very interesting year, even if not a great one for gardeners. First the Sierra Madre earthquake shook things up a bit, and the big freeze of December solidified everything again; then there were limits on how much water we could share with our plants, the usual lack of rainfall, and some very-hot days but lots of overcast ones for which we were very grateful.

I lost many garden and patio plants in the winter freeze, but no irises. The hot spring days took some toll of my PCI's in the ground and a few in gallon pots, and I lost many of my seedlings that were in 4-inch pots. They had been potted up unusually late due to circumstances beyond my control, but some crosses seemed to make it real well while others were a total loss. I don't believe I can blame this on the drought, as I have been able to water my garden most of the time when it needed moisture.

I think that at least one factor in my losses has been the lack of uniformity in the moisture of the soil in the pots. They possibly got a little dry causing the roots to stop growing, and when they were again moist, perhaps the roots were too dormant to take up moisture. This is not necessarily a 1991 problem. The potting medium tends to repel water applied to the surface when it gets too dry and it shrinks away from the side of the pot allowing the water to run right through. The only method I have found that will alleviate the problem is to immerse the pots in about three inches of water and let them stand until the surface of the medium is damp. Then I remove the pots and allow them to drain.

I have never made an "all out" test of Dr. Lee Lenz' culture method which specified no water during the summer months when the PCIs are practically dormant. I observed them at the Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont where they were growing dry, and growing well under that premise. They were mostly mature plants, and a lot of things had *I. munzii* blood, which originates from Kern County on the east side of the southern San Joaquin Valley where the summers are hot and dry. If Lenz had losses I didn't see them.

Where I had clones in odd spots in the

garden that somehow didn't get a regular supply of water, many of these turned brown and passed on. I lose some even with reasonable moisture when I grow them in the ground in full sun. Some are doing well with minimum but regular watering, growing in full sun; but for the most part, they seem to do best in half shade under trees. I am sure that Dr. Lenz's dry summer program could not have been applied to plants growing in containers.

The members of the Southern California Iris Society were fortunate to participate in a bus trip from Arcadia to the home of Laverne and Ralph Conrad in Bonsall which is inland, a few miles from Oceanside. The late Dr. Clarke Cosgrove and the Conrads purchased a lovely spot in rolling hills with a small stream that runs through the property. There are native California trees that provide a lacy canopy over the slopes that have been terraced to provide planting areas for azaleas, bulbs, and an assortment of other plants, plus lots and lots of PCI's. These have been growing, hybridizing, and reseeding themselves here for several years. There are a few introduced varieties, but most are unnamed seedlings resulting from open pollination. Ralph has selected some for possible introduction, and many are very nice. They have a sizeable planting of tall bearded, but only one or two were in bloom at the time we visited. We were late enough in March to hit just about peak bloom on the PCI's, and what a sight! Infinite variation in patterns, form, color, and height.

The Conrads select the best ones and collect the seed to share with others, including the current SPCNI Seed List.

I sent Louis Fry some open pollinated seed of ORCHID SPRITE (Nies'43). The plants have wide leaves (up to 3/4 inches wide) and about 12 to 15 inches tall, and are glossy dark-green on one side and a gray-green on the other. As the gray-green and the dark-green sides are intermixed according to the angle of view, the leaf color variation makes for an interesting effect. Although 1943 makes Orchid Sprite fifty years old, it is an unusual color and still a good iris. You may wish to order it from the seed bank.

LONGVIEW IRIS GARDENS

Ellie Hubley Yucaipa, CA.

CLAREMONT BLUE JAY, grown at Longview and entered by me, won Best of Section at the Inland Iris Society Annual Iris Show held at Riverside, California on April 27, 1991. Other award-winning iris from Longview were: First place blue ribbons won by BOB'S BLUE BOY, CANYON GOLD, SOQUEL COVE ORCHID RESPRITE, & PURPLE KNIGHT.

Fifty seven PCI's (more than one of some varieties) are in the ground at Longview, and the following varieties were in beautiful bloom during the March-April-May 1991 season: BOB'S BLUE BOY, CANYON GOLD, CLAREMONT BLUE BIRD, CLAREMONT BLUE JAY, ORCHID RESPRITE, PURPLE KNIGHT, REFUGIO, SOQUEL COVE, TRAILBLAZER, and WESTERN WORLD.

Bob Hubley authored a pamphlet entitled "How to Grow Pacific Coast Native

Iris" in southern California, and I will be happy to send a copy, gratis, to those requesting one.



Longview Gardens

Since the death of my beloved, Bob, Longview Iris Gardens at 12407 Fremont Street, Yucaipa, California, is no longer a commercial garden, but a private garden where iris lovers will be welcome to view PCI during the blooming season, March through May. Please phone first, (714) 797-8700.

HABITAT GUIDE TO *I. MUNZII*

Gene Loop

[Editor's Note: At two meetings with SPCNI members during the current year, it was decided that it would be our policy to include routes which could be taken to see PCI's in the wild. It was also decided that our policy against digging any PCI from their habitat be re-stated whenever such directions were printed in the ALMANAC. Please enjoy them, photograph and paint them, but leave them to grow as they will, and for others to enjoy.]

To see *I. munzii* in the wild, you can visit an area we enjoyed, by taking the following route: Take California Highway 190 going east out of Porterville. Porterville is about 40 miles north of Bakersfield and 23 miles east of Highway 99, (old

U.S.99). Follow Highway 190 to Springfield. On the east side of Springfield take Mountain Road 296 to the left. (This road is also County Road J37.) It runs parallel to the boundary of Sequoia National Forest, which is a mile or two to the east.

Follow Mountain Road 296 about 3.5 miles to Mountain Road 220, (also called Bear Creek Road), which angles off to the right and goes into the National Forest. Follow Bear Creek Road for about four miles and watch for a sign marking the boundary of Sequoia National Forest. There is a cattle guard across the road at this boundary. After passing the cattle guard, look for a place to park on the shoulder of the road close to the trailhead of the trail which goes down the hill to

Bear Creek. The trailhead is just a fraction of a mile past the entrance.

There are plants of *I. munzii* to the right, down the hill, and also back the way the road came up. There are a few clumps of *I. munzii* down this trail about 100 feet, and then off to the left, across a

little gully and up the hill. The Forest Ranger that gave us directions to this trailhead, said that there are quite a few iris down the trail near Bear Creek. On the map this looks to be a mile or more of trail and may be quite a climb. This author did not go down the trail.

1991 SPCNI MEETINGS

MAY 20, 1991

Approximately 90 persons attended the SPCNI meeting at the AIS National Convention at a Marriott hotel in the Wash-

ington DC area, May 20, 1991. Gigi Hall presented a slide program featuring named cultivars.

JUNE 1, 1991

A meeting of SPCNI convened at 8pm at the Monarch Motor Hotel at Clackamas, Oregon, following the first day of the 1991 Expedition.

Present were Claude Derr, Joanne Derr, Ruth Grainger, Richard Kiyomoto, R. D. Kenitzer, Diane Kenitzer, Ted Kipping, Adele Lawyer, Lewis Lawyer, Joanne Loop, Bob Plank, Teressa Rigby, and Jean Witt.

Directions to Habitats: After talking about various locations where Jean Witt, Diana Reek, (not present), and others had seen outstanding stands of Pacificas, the idea evolved that each issue of the ALMANAC could give directions to specific areas where *Californicae* iris species could be seen, along with the proper timing for seeing them in bloom. Exploration by our members from Washington through Southern California could serve to locate new habitats, and to identify previously described areas where they no longer exist. Another primary benefit would be to stimulate interest in growing and preserving the Pacificas, both wild and hybrid.

This gave rise to reservations about whether our subscribers might be tempted to collect iris from these sites and thus diminish the environment and the pleasure of others. It was decided that SPCNI should establish and repeatedly express a strong policy against digging

plants from native sources. It was felt that it was unlikely that those who are members of this society would violate this policy.

Cost of Foreign Postage: Foreign postage costs SPCNI more than the dues received. It was decided that since they are a relatively small segment of our membership, and we are still solvent, we could defer raising foreign dues.

Slide Chairman: R.D. Kenitzer volunteered to be Slide Chairman when the lack of a representative in this position was noted. A collection of slides from former Slide Chairman, Colin Rigby, now in Gigi Hall's possession, will be transferred to R.D., who will organize them, using his computer skills, and prepare them for talks through AIS and local garden clubs.

Slides of Registered Varieties: Jean Witt suggested that color pictures be taken of all PCI's when they are registered, and be placed in our slide file where they would be available on request. She cited instances where varieties obtained do not conform to the descriptions in the AIS Check List. Such an ambitious program would be impossible for tall bearded iris, but with the relatively small number of PCI's listed, this would seem quite workable. This idea was enthusiastically received.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1991

A meeting of most of the Executive Committee and several additional members, took place at 2:30 pm at the home of Lewis and Adele Lawyer at Oakland.

Present were President, Claude Derr and Joanne Derr, First Vice President, David Lennette, Immediate Past President, Gigi Hall, Secretary-Treasurer, Adele

Lawyer, Almanac Editor, Lewis Lawyer, Seed Chairmen, Louis and Caroline Fry, Northern California Representative, Eugene Loop, Joanne Loop, Distribution Committee members, Colin and Teresa Rigby, and former Editor, Olive Rice Waters.

This meeting was held at the suggestion of the newly elected President, who resides in Oregon, but was in Northern California at the time. An agenda was prepared by Adele Lawyer and the following items were discussed:

REVIEW OF BY-LAWS

According to the By-Laws, it is the responsibility of the President to appoint committee members. Those present at the meeting reviewed the status of each committee listed in the By-Laws.

1. **Display Gardens** A "Display Garden" was defined as a garden which maintains a planting of current and historic PCI introductions, and which would be open to the public for viewing at bloom time. Although Joe Ghio, Lorena Reid, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Cordon Bleu were listed as "display" gardens in the early *Almanacs*, they gradually lost that distinction through attrition. Members present agreed that keeping up with all introductions was too much to ask of any grower. The consensus was that members having a large number of PCI's in their gardens could be asked to open their gardens during bloom season, with the provision that guests would telephone ahead to confirm a time for their visit. In Oregon, the Derrs will ask the Aitkens if they could be listed as a Display Garden. The Lennettes, Lawyers, and Rigbys would qualify in Northern California, and a location in Southern California should be found.

2. **Publications:** This category is active, with an editor, district representatives, and circulation managers.

3. **Membership:** "Welcoming new members", the function of this committee, is now carried out by the Secretary, who sends out a welcoming letter to all new members.

4. **Publicity:** We have no publicity committee. The function, according to the By-Laws, is to "acquaint the general public with the existence, purposes, activities, and accomplishments of the society. The committee should institute a Speakers Bureau to notify other garden and flower societies of its existence."

Derr noted that articles on PCI's in magazines such as *Sunset*, *Pacific Horticulture*, and *the Bulletin of the Rock Garden Society* have brought in new members and it was suggested that more such articles could be written for other magazines. *Southern Living* was one suggestion, as was the publication of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon. Claude Derr offered to investigate the latter.

The negative effect of a poorly researched article such as the one in *Fine Gardening* was discussed. Good articles are needed to counteract the damage.

A Speakers Bureau was considered a good idea. The talks should be of a quality to represent the PCI's well. We need a Chairman for the Publicity Committee. Olive Rice will think about someone to recommend for the position.

5. **Ways and Means:** The By-Laws say, "Means to raise money for such activities that the society might sponsor". At the present time our dues account for most of our income, 56 percent. Publication sales are next with 26 percent, and seed sales third with 12 percent. Both of the latter figures are somewhat exaggerated, especially publications, since costs have not been deducted. There has been some discussion about publishing a pamphlet on the PCI similar to those of the Japanese and Siberian Societies. Although this seems beyond our financial capacity, Olive Waters said that such publications are usually financed by asking the AIS Foundation for a loan, which can be repaid over time.

Gigi Hall suggested that a "Want Ad" section could be put in the ALMANAC, possibly for a nominal fee. Readers might ask subscribers if they had a particular variety they were looking for, or knew where they could find it. This idea was approved.

Other means of raising money that were suggested were producing a picture of PCI's for sale, or decorating stationery or cards. The latter suggestion was the wish of the majority. No one was appointed to be Chairman of Ways and Means.

6. **Library Committee:** By-Laws state, "Catalog history of the Society, catalog information on PCI's," [This has already been done], "Encourage collection of color slides and photograph prints to be distributed on a loan basis." [This project is now started with R.D. Kenitzer as our Slide Chairman, and the first group of slides are now in his hands.]

COLOR PICTURES OF INTRODUCTIONS

Jean Witt has suggested that slides or color prints be made of all registered PCI's so that their identity can be verified. Some of the verbal color descriptions in the Check List are difficult to visualize, as is the signal shape and size. These slides could also be used in slide programs.

The objections to this were that it would be difficult to get some hybridizers to take pictures of all their introductions. Gigi Hall also noted that if collecting slides of introductions is not an AIS policy, our section would not be at liberty to adopt such a policy.

Reservations were expressed about the accuracy of color photographs. For instance, some films do not reproduce blues well, and others are inaccurate with pinks.

It was decided, nevertheless, to give it a try, not as a mandatory item, but as a request.

CHECK LIST

In preparation for the publication of a new SPCNI Check List, Gene and Joanne Loop have checked every varietal entry in the current Check List from 1951 through 1990 and have noted many errors and/or changes, mostly minor. They will now check entries earlier than 1951.

Some of the other experts who checked for possible errors are Roy Davidson, Phil Edinger, George Gessert, Lee Lenz, John Splane, Tomas Tamberg, Francesca Thoolen, and Jean Witt. They have found errors and omissions, some serious and some trivial.

VARIOUS EXCUSES AND EXPLANATIONS

Because of limitation on weight and the cost of postage, we were forced to postpone the printing of two major items, both of which were printed and ready to go. One was an article on frost, to which Bill Ferrell and Larry Moss contributed, continuing the article published in the spring, 1991 issue. The other is the list of new members and address changes. We can tell you, however, that we had 36 new members in the past 6 months, and now total 348 members and subscribers.

We should also tell you that we have obtained a non-profit, bulk-mail permit from the San Leandro Post Office, and will be sending all but our foreign mailing through that facility. This move became necessary when Jean Erickson and the

MAPPING PCI HABITATS

It was decided that we would go ahead and give exact directions to PCI habitats, but every time such directions appear in the ALMANAC, they will be prefaced by an expression of our policy against digging plants.

EXPEDITION PLANS

Since we want to avoid having a field trip at the time of AIS Conventions, we should have late season expeditions in 1992 and 1993 when the AIS Conventions occur in early season. And since we try to alternate between California and Oregon, the Lawyers suggested that we schedule the 1992 Expedition for farthest north-western California, to take place on May 16th and 17th. It is suggested that the area be from Trinidad north to the High Divide, Low Divide Roads east of Smith River in Del Norte County. We could possibly spill over into lower Oregon, too. We would see douglasiana, lavender innominata, bracteata, chrysophylla, and possibly thompsonii.

In 1993 we would like to take a boat out of Gold Beach, Oregon, and go to a lodge on the Rogue River. We would then hike along trails to see the innominata, which occur in many colors, among many other wild flowers and scenic views along the way. This would also be in mid-May. It was moved and seconded that these areas be approved as trips. In 1994, the Expedition could be back in California in April, possibly in Marin County.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5 pm.

Rigbys were no longer in a position to handle our mailing through their Portable Acres permit. The new permit cost us \$150.00 this first year, and will cost \$75.00 per year thereafter. This cost, however, is considerably less than mailing by any other method.

Please note that when you change your address and don't let us know, the cost of mailing your individual Almanac increases about ten fold, so do keep in touch whenever you move.

And, finally, we want to thank Jean, and Colin and Teresa for all their past help. Not only was it a godsend to SPCNI, but Adele and I will miss their companionship at the biannual "tip-in" sessions up at Jean's home at Santa Rosa.