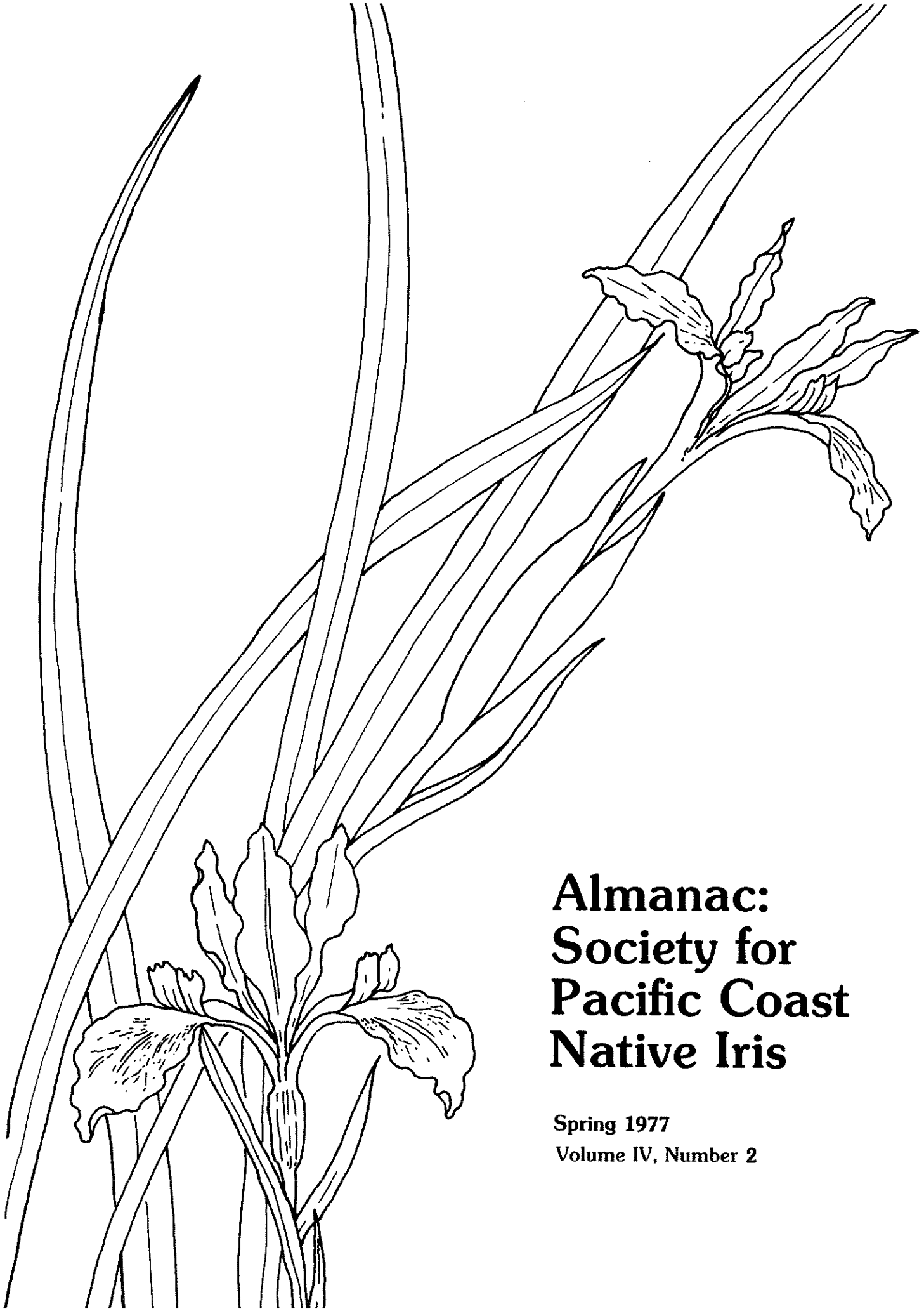

Almanac: Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

Spring 1977
Volume IV, Number 2

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

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Associate Editor — George Waters

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From the Editor:

It's time to report on reaction to the changes in our Fall 1976 issue. Comments, while generally favorable, seemed to indicate a preference for a more standard typesetting, for accuracy if for no other reason. Use of the Mergenthaler VIP composer being run by an operator unfamiliar with the machine resulted in extremely uneven line spacing and peculiar effects, such as syllables broken in inappropriate places for carryover to the next line. Reversion to use of an IBM composer will cancel out the right-hand justification, which some readers felt was unnecessarily sophisticated for our journal. Opinion was evenly balanced on the two experimental type faces, some people saying that they enjoyed having two different ones!

Neither of these two are available on the IBM composer, so we will plan to use Press Roman typeface and hope to have our headlines set as before, in Souvenir, on the Mergenthaler.

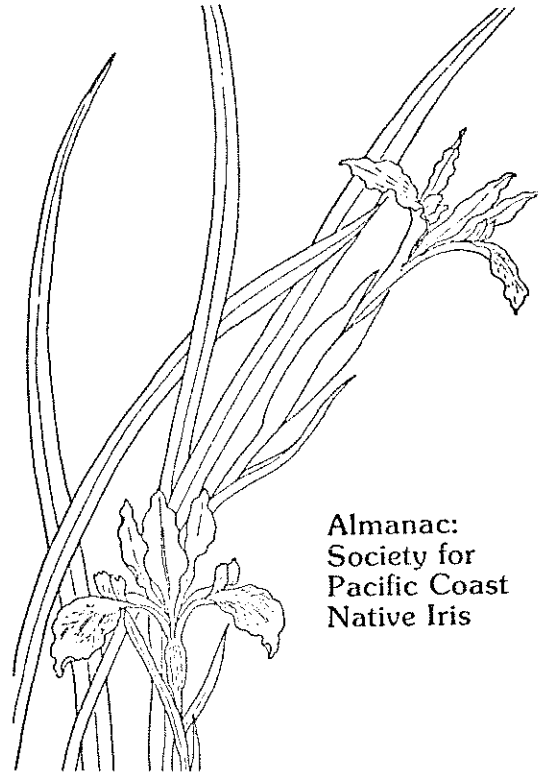
Olive Rice

The following articles have been suggested for reprinting in our journal. Please let us know what you think.

Stevens, Jean. The Californian Group, an extract from *The Iris and Its Culture*, 1947.

Lenz, Lee. *Propagation of Iris innominata.* From AIS Bulletin Number 123 for October, 1951.

Copley, Marian E. *How to Recognize California's Wild Irises,* California Horticultural Journal, Vol. 31, No. 4, for October, 1970.



Almanac:
Society for
Pacific Coast
Native Iris

cover : Diana Gregory

Our Portable Display Goes to Memphis

The portable display of photographs approved by the SPCNI at its fall meeting will make its debut at the 1977 American Iris Society Convention in Memphis, May 1-4. The exhibit has been produced by Jean Witt of Seattle; it consists of several 24 x 27" poster boards containing thirty color photographs of California iris species and hybrids.

Contributors of slides from which the color prints were made were Dick Richards, Joe Ghio, C. L. McDonald, Lorena Reid, George Stambach and Jean and Joe Witt. Color shots of McCaskill hybrids, taken by Glenn Corlew, and appearing in the April 1976 issue of *Pacific Horticulture*, were included, as were Mitchell award winners AMIGUITA and WESTERN QUEEN. At the time the display boards were ready for shipping to Memphis, no photograph was yet available for NATIVE WARRIOR, nor was there a picture of the 1976 English Dykes medal winner NO NAME.

SPCNI vice president Jean Witt notes that there is more interest in Californicae over the country than there has ever been, and more growers are raising these irises from seed and bringing them into bloom. She suggests that the society make a concerted effort to have native iris seed grown in all climates to encourage adaptation, and a sifting of the resulting clones for hardiness. She has sent a bulk lot of old seed to St. Paul; and a group at Triton College, Lisle, Illinois, is working toward this goal. Jean still has more seed, and you'll find her address on the inside front cover.

SPCNI Spring Trek, 1977

SPCNI Vice President Dick Sloan, reporting on the society's spring trek, April 9, to the gardens of George Stambach and the McCaskills, says, "George actually did not have too much in bloom, but a couple of those were beauties. McCaskills had a lot of bloom, including several that are to be named. One in particular was a cream yellow with rust signal, about the nicest-shaped flower, and most attractive I've seen."

From the President

After a busy winter we enter into an even busier spring. The californicae season seems to have started earlier than usual in Orinda with PASATIEMPO opening its bloom. In an effort to have representative plants from many parts of the world, some British Broadleigh Gardens and Brummitt introductions were obtained and are now growing at the Thoolens. Also, seeds obtained from Mr. Hargrave of Australia were planted and the first blooms are now starting to appear. They represent over thirty years of breeding. Some of you have seen the slides of his strain and know how beautiful they are. Seeds of the Walker strain were obtained also and we look forward to their eventual bloom.

The californicae are not blooming as prolifically this year and this may be due to the drought we are currently experiencing in California, for although they are drought resistant as Western natives, they no doubt respond beautifully, given water at the right time.

We have a new membership chairman, Evelyn Hayes from Lemoore, CA. She has graciously volunteered to take on this task. We still need a Ways & Means Chairman and would prefer volunteers to appointments.

Soon we will be appointing a Nominating Committee. To make their task a little easier, would you PLEASE send me your suggestions as to whom you would like to see at the helm when the next staff takes over in July 1978. We start early since these nominations must appear in the fall issue and the candidates in the following spring issue.

A local trek took place in Southern California April 9th and we were disappointed we could not attend because of a conflict of iris activity. Oddly enough, their season seems to be late. However, we were able to attend and judge at the Aril Society Show on March 26th where Vern and Jack McCaskill displayed their beautiful seedlings. Jack informed me that they are introducing seven plants this year and lists are available from them.

Letters from overseas members are always welcome and Gilbert Cole from Millswood, South Australia, sent colored photos of some seedlings blooming in his garden last October. There was one lovely rust reminiscent of RESTLESS NATIVE, and another, a pale lavender pink with a deeper spot on the falls, both large and wide blooms which would appeal to many. Growth on both looked quite vigorous, and one appeared to be growing alongside or among the tall beardeds! This kind of communication is most welcome and we invite more overseas members to do the same as well as our American members.

If some of you, committed to write articles for SPCNI, did not do so, it is not too late to send them in for the next issue, but PLEASE do send them in. Although it is more fun to receive than to give, it IS more blessed to give than to receive! On this note I sign off wishing you a good bloom season and to keep in mind that we need notes, varietal comments, black and white photos, and articles relative to our favorite flower, the californicae.

Francesca Thoolen

The Banbury Strain and How It Came Into Being

How does it come about that someone living in the centre of England should become a hybridizer of the Pacific Coast native iris?

Many years ago Dr. Lee Lenz came to England and stayed with us for awhile; he and my husband had orchid growing in common. When he returned home he sent us slides of his Pacific Coast iris seedlings growing in long rows, and a beautiful sight they were.

As floral art enthusiast I fell in love with the dainty colourful little gems, a love that has lasted many years. I still think they are the best of the whole genus.

When Dr. Lenz sent us some plants it was decided that I should have these while my husband concentrated on the tall beardeds. Amongst Dr. Lenz's gift were PACIFIC SPLENDOR, a beautifully formed yellow flower. Unfortunately it did not do well for me, and after a year or two died, but not before I had seedlings from it. RIO TULARE was perfect for floral decoration, but when on trial at Wisley the judges would not give it an award because in their opinion it was too leafy. I am fond of it and have quite a lot of plants in the garden.

There were very few named varieties in this country, and so, as it was just a hobby, not commercial, with no one else to please, I pleased myself and saved all self-set pods, and also obtained mixed seed from the British Iris Society seed pool.

When the seedlings flowered I selected the ones I liked, and either tried my hand at crossing them, or let them be bee set, again selecting the ones that pleased. I think this is as good a way as any for a beginner to start.

I built up a good collection of plants, a few of which I registered and most of these were selected for trial at Wisley. Some of the earlier ones would not have been kept now, but one "lives and learns." As their daintyness was the main attraction not too much attention was paid to getting them larger. There are plenty of big irises in other sections of the genus, and these wiry little stems should never have blooms which they could not support.

There seemed plenty of scope for a better colour range and interesting markings, and well formed flowers.

Being so easy to arrange (one just puts them in a not very deep container), I enjoyed putting up tables full at the B.I.S. show in London where they were always admired, and they are now becoming very popular over here. Alas! the main Iris Shows are now fixed for a later date, when my plants are well past their best.

The soil at Banbury, on the edge of the Cotswolds, is good rich agricultural soil of approximately pH7, which is fortunate for us because my husband's tall beardeds and my Pacificas grow equally well in it.

A large beech tree at the bottom of the garden supplies me with adequate leaves for a mulch, so little else is needed.

The winters here are very variable; some are quite mild and others like the one we are having now, consist of spells of snow lasting several days, then a mild spell, then a hard frost with the ground frozen solid for several days, then mild and very wet—enough to puzzle any plant!

The established plants are quite hardy and can take anything that comes, always blooming quite gaily from the middle of May to early June.

I am hoping all will be well with the plants Mr. Ghio sent me last October. They have been mulched with leaves and peat, but the winter weather came early and the plants not being established have to be pressed back into the ground after a prolonged frost.

Twice now I have exchanged plants with Mr. Ghio, and I think those he receives from me establish themselves much quicker for going into a more congenial climate. However, although it takes me longer to get going I have not lost much; it is just that they are later getting typical blooms.

Last summer the first batch from Mr. Ghio bloomed well and I was able to take some to the Chelsea Flower Show, where they were selected for trial at Wisley. There they will be grown for two years before being judged for awards.

The plants that I sent to Wisley this autumn are:— NATIVE WARRIOR (Phillips), SAN LORENZO (Ghio), PACIFIC CHARMER (Stambach). I hope they will do well there, also that I will be able to get some more American raised cultivars to Chelsea this year.

I am very honoured to have been invited to become an honorary member of the S.P.C.N.I., and wish it continued success.

Marjorie Brummitt

SPCNI Citation

For her enthusiasm for Pacific coast native irises over many years;

For the discrimination shown in her selection of seedlings for registration, eschewing as she has novelty for its own sake;

For the artistry with which she has time and again displayed these irises at shows of the British Iris Society, and especially the magnificent display at Westminster on the occasion of the BIS Jubilee; And for her generosity in sharing the results of her work, which has done so much to bring Pacific Coast Native Irises to the forefront in gardens everywhere:

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris hereby names Marjorie Brummitt an honorary life member.

In the photograph above Marjorie Brummitt is accompanied by her faithful dog, Candy. When Marjorie and her husband Leonard adopted the dog, Candy was in very poor condition through neglect of a careless owner.

How They Grow: and Where

In Minnesota

PCNs in Minnesota? Well, some of us are trying and having some success. Even in Cloquet (now that is really cold country), a clump of *tenax* has been growing and blooming for several years though chiseled off divisions have failed to make it according to its grower, Gordon Gullion.

My own experience is rather limited. Though CAROL CABEEN and a name-lost, smaller rosy-red hybrid bloomed for me this spring, most of my experience so far relates to growing from seed. My idea is to grow and lose seedlings to develop a hardy strain (just started, though).

I think I can state as a fact that the best germination of seed has been those planted and left outdoors all winter to germinate in the spring. Seed planted indoors and refrigerated, or not refrigerated, and practically no germination, but left outdoors the following winter, had good germination in the spring, and very early at that. Of these—a good stand of "grass" in two plastic packs—only about a dozen survived transplanting to the garden and eight of these survived winter, 1976, a very mild winter by our standards. Three plants, including CAROL CABEEN and the other that bloomed, sent me by August Phillips in April, 1975; and *tenax*, from Silver Star Mountain, transplanted from Jean Witt's garden in July, 1975, with a layover in Yellowstone, also survived the winter.

The seed I planted outdoors in fall, 1975, had excellent germination. That planted indoors a month or two later had sparse to no germination, though some are germinating now in my basement. I had much better success at transplanting the little seedlings this year, 1976, than the previous year. I cannot recall the date of the earlier setting out, but this year they were set out in early August and were covered up for the winter without any loss that I could notice.

I plant them all, so far, in a moderately acid, moderately shady north-sloped wildflower bed where I grow trilliums, hepaticas, ladyslippers and other wildings and, also haphazardly, baby rhododendrons. All the survivors seemed reasonably healthy and happy.

Since I had 100% survival of the plants from Phillips in April, 1975, I ordered several for April, 1976 delivery. All were beautiful, healthy looking plants, survival has been sparse with most going down hill from the moment of planting, while all of the winter survivors did well. This has been a year of drought here and while I have watered regularly, I could have missed a critical point in the spring. I still feel most comfortable with spring planting of any plant that is marginally hardy and will be trying again, next spring.

Someone suggested that if one doesn't have room for many seedlings, they might try wide-cross hybrids as they would not get many seedlings. Perhaps growing PCNs in Minnesota will keep my wildflower bed from becoming a jungle, but it is fun trying.

Joan Cooper

In the Eastern U.S.

I have been trying to grow California irises in Connecticut for about five years, with only a small degree of success, but with enough experience by now to have something to offer to others who may be thinking of trying.

My reasons might be of interest to those who have not thought of trying yet. First, I must put forward the merits of the irises themselves. If you have seen them, or their photographic reproductions, you know that they combine the exquisite personality of wildflowers, which they are, with some of the range in color and form which you get with the larger iris groups. And the fact that their native territories on the Pacific Coast are fast undergoing changes must make an appeal to anybody who wants to see all natives preserved. My other reason was my need for irises (they had to be irises) which could make it in the rugged, shady, humid surroundings I had available for planting. As my bearded irises got sicker I looked afield for beardless types and soon found many that did well, but the Californicae remained the ideal substitute.

I tried transplants from the West Coast nurseries. *Iris tenax* was said to be the hardiest. I did find I could keep it for a year or two, but the drab violet and skinny shape of the bloom did not excite me. *I. douglasiana* was said to be the best garden subject on the West Coast; I could not get it through a winter.

I ordered some hybrid clumps by color. A greater proportion of these survived. To survive was to bloom, and I was most pleased by the clear yellows and whites and the ruffled form of these, which I recognized as having quite a bit of *innominata* in them. Then some attempts with Amiguita and Agnes James seemed to show that *douglasiana* could live through a winter and bloom, even though it has nothing like the vigor of the hybrids.

At this point I realized that the advice of the authorities was good: try the Californicae from seed. And if you have access to Dykes's best-known books or to Molly Price's *Iris Book* you can't do better than to follow their instructions. Both tell of the gratifying results of raising these plants from seed, in England, and in New York state. Not that my first trials were really that successful. For two summers in a row I let the seedlings get too dry during my long midsummer vacations, and I had only a few clumps ready to bloom the second year. But they were nice! I had ordered plenty of hybrid seed along with the *tenax* and *innominata* packets, and these gave plants of all sizes, from six-inch clumps like tufts of limp grass to twenty-inch plants with dark-green glossy stiff leaves. All were almost evergreen, but as time went on they tended to shed their old leaves almost continually and to send up new shoots sporadically all through the spring, summer and fall, so that it was difficult at any given time to judge the health of any planting. And I had to get used to losing a prized clump

unexpectedly and inexplicably. Among those that are now only memories was a tiny "variegata" with clear golden standards and dark red falls, a most heavily ruffled lavender-and-sky-blue medium sized *innominata* type, and a sleek cream-colored *gormani-bracteata* hybrid with narrow brown lines on standards and falls and still spruce-green foliage.

Two years ago I began to plant more seeds in a greater variety of nooks and crannies, and the relative success of these more scattered plantings has led me to some tentative conclusions about culture. The *Californicae* are not necessarily delicate where cold, humidity, shade, and even poor soil are the only drawbacks, but they do require something extra, which I can only guess at. It must be *consistency* of culture that they want, a sheltered, mulched, well-drained position where they are not subject to sudden swings of temperature or alternate drought and damp. You can move a thriving clump, roots intact, from one good location to another that looks equally good and lose the whole thing in 24 hours. On the other hand, small seedlings with up to four leaves can be moved very easily if the long fragile roots are not too roughly chopped off. It would seem that the period of adaptability is short.

Some people recommend "wildflower" culture for the *Californicae*; some say "primula culture." I agree; but it is profitable to give them a little more attention than you give your wildflowers, since there is no time when then are really dormant, and you must not let them be constantly moist, as some primroses like to be. California irises often signal their distress by browning at the tips. This may be because of some element missing in the soil, but I don't think so—I have grown them well in many different soil mixes. I would guess they simply want sharper drainage. Would a rock-garden culture suit them best? Maybe so, but perfect drainage usually goes with a certain amount of exposure, and these irises want shelter above all. I now grow most of mine among larger, sturdier plants and I let the leaves collect around them in the fall and brush the leaves off gradually in the spring.

The best—almost the only—source right now for seeds is SIGNA, the Species Study Group, which may not be operating much longer unless helpers can be found to edit the publication, deal with the membership list and take care of the seed collection and distribution. But by all means try, if you are interested, to join this group by sending $3.00 to Dr. Homer Metcalf, Montana State University College of Agriculture, Bozeman, Montana 59715, to receive the publications for a year and the seed list when it is ready before the end of this year. You will be encouraged to try other species irises too, such as cristata, verna, tenuis, and the species of the spuria and sibirica groups, some of which are admirably adapted to Region One.

Several West Coast nurseries have offered Californicae seed from time to time, but I can't give you the name of one that offers anything right now. The British Iris Society does offer many kinds, and a few are available from Thompson and Morgan, P.O. Box 24, 401 Kennedy Blvd., Somerdale, NJ 08083.

Elaine P. Hulbert
59 Bandy Dr.
Coscob, Conn. 06807

In Virginia

Dr. Anne Lee, American Iris Society's RVP for Region 4, was one of those responding to our offers of bulletin exchanges. She sent us the article which follows. On New Year's Eve Dr. Lee suffered a massive heart attack; she died on January 2. Dr. Lee came to this country from her native Czechoslovakia 38 years ago, as a war refuge, and was imminently successful in adjusting to her new country, to which she made magnificient contributions. Her ready response to SPCNI was typical of her outgoing, generous way of life.

My first encounter with the Pacific native Iris came during the 1972 AIS Convention in Oregon when we were taken on a field trip to see the native Iris growing in profusion. They were intriguing enough for me to try to bring some with me. Alta Brown gave me several plants from her garden, warning me that I probably would be making a vain effort.

To my surprise I was able to establish several clumps of *I. tenax* and *I.douglasiana* and AMI ROYALE. The latter has bloomed twice for me, the *tenax* once. I will admit that my plants don't look as sturdy, but the mere fact they survived is an achievement. I planted them near azaleas where they were protected somewhat by high shade. Maybe open sunshine would suit them better, but I did not wish to disturb them, but will try some other rhizomes and locate them differently.

Our Region 4 median representative, Rena Kizziar, has grown Pacific hybrids successfully from seed and brought them to profuse bloom.

Maybe when more information will become available we will succeed with these charming members of the genus *Iris*.

-Dr. Anne Lee

California Indians used the iris in many ways. Leaves of *Iris macrosiphon* were gathered in large bundles. A single silky fiber was taken from each margin of the leaf; the rest of the fibers were not used. The Indian women cleaned these fibers, and the Indian men twisted the threads on their thighs. The fiber made a beautiful strong and pliable cord or rope used for fishing nets and snares for catching deer, birds, and other game.

Myrtle Reece, writing in the *Signal*, newsletter of Fresno Iris Society.

Reprinted from the newsletter of Region 1, AIS, Vol XXVIII, 1976.

Golden Nymph (Iris Aureonympha)

Edith Hardin English

Jean Witt suggests that Mrs. English was the first person in the United States to use Iris Innominata *for breeding. This article is reprinted from the* Bulletin of the American Iris Society, April 1952.

The genetic adventure of planning the existence of a plant with certain definite and desirable characteristics and years later seeing that very entity blooming in the garden, is an experience to warm the heart of any plant lover. Such an adventure is appurtenant to the history of *Iris aureonympha*, GOLDEN NYMPH.

In May 1936, just about the time that *Iris innominata* was at its height of bloom, there came a rain storm that pommeled its lovely golden blossoms to the earth. It was this pathetic sight that awakened the desire for a plant that would have not only the handsome golden blossoms of *I. innominata* but also sturdy upright stems. Hybridization offered the way for the needed improvement.

Nearby in the garden grew a short compact form of *I. douglasiana* which had been chosen and collected as an individual of merit on a slope covered with plants of this species in southern Oregon. Having proved such a substantial and satisfactory member of the garden, this particular plant was selected as the parent that would contribute the desired characters. True, it had violet-lavender flowers which were not wanted in the prospective hybrid, but this trait eventually could be eliminated. To its credit, *I. douglasiana* bore two flowers to a stem whereas *I. innominata* had but one.

The plants of *I. innominata* had come into our garden in an interesting manner. One winter evening in 1930 Mrs. John R. Leach, of Portland, Oregon, had said to my husband, "Here are some seeds of the lovely new iris that we discovered in southern Oregon. I want you to have these seeds. See if they cannot be made to grow in your garden." Happily they did grow, being very likely the first of this new species to be grown in cultivation. Even moving them to Seattle when they were tiny seedlings did not dampen their enthusiasm for growing. In February 1930 Professor L. F. Henderson published Mrs. Leach's newly discovered plant as *Iris innominata*, in Rhodora, Vol. 32. Thus *I. innominata* began its botanical and horticultural careers almost simultaneously.

In May 1936 my first attempt at hybridization of *I. douglasiana* and *I. innominata* was made, the flower head being carefully bagged and labeled. This attempt, however, met with failure. The rain storm which had continued made conditions most unfavorable.

The following May the work of hybridization was begun anew, the cross between *I. douglasiana* and *I. innominata* being made both ways, that is, using both species for seed-bearing parents. On August 9, 1937 nineteen very wizened and abnormal looking seeds were collected from the *I. innominata* parent. On September 18 of that same year, 134 plump, well-formed seeds were harvested from the *I. douglasiana* parent. All of the seeds from both plants were sown in two respective pots and kept out of doors over the winter.

The following spring brought forth only one plant from the nineteen wizened seeds. From the 134 plump seeds there came an abundance of healthy little grass-like plants. These were transplanted as soon as they were large enough to handle and the soil in the pot left undisturbed. The following spring another lot of these original seeds germinated, making seventy-two plants in all from the harvest of *I. douglasiana*.

Then came the wait throughout the seasons while I carefully weeded and cultivated the tiny seedlings, exercising meanwhile the abundance of faith that the hybridizer of plants must maintain. Finally with the third spring the longed-for floral offerings appeared. Each morning I hurried out to the plot to see what miracles the night had wrought, resisting with considerable effort the temptation to pry open the buds to see what color the flowers would be.

Whatever the dainty little *I. innominata* lacked in ability to produce plump, fat seeds was more than counterbalanced by its ability to transmit the apparently dominant golden color. Such an interesting assortment of yellows appeared, the varying degrees of veining and shading making no two truly identical. It was surprising to find such a meager amount of violet-lavender in evidence at all.

The one lone plant, grown from the seeds of *I. innominata*, combined the characters least desired, frailty and the lavender color. I have kept this plant and have a certain scientific interest in it because it represents, no doubt, the recessive characters. It is, in fact, fairly attractive, but it could never become the prima donna that loving admirers have made of *I. aureonympha*, GOLDEN NYMPH.

It was not until the third year of bloom, when ample opportunity had been granted to study and compare the blossoms, that GOLDEN NYMPH was set apart from the others as something special, to be propagated, photographed and named. The quality which made this plant outstanding among its numerous sisters was a certain air of daintiness, an attribute of golden, frilled feminity which, incidentally, suggested its name. Upon seeing GOLDEN NYMPH for the first time nearly everyone says, "Why, it looks just like an orchid."

The veining, so prominent in both its parents, is reduced to delicate markings of deeper yellow. The flower, throughout, is of soft golden yellow. Happily, like its maternal parent, it bears two flowers to each stem. True to its purpose of coming into being, this hybrid has sturdy stems that stand up well in rainy weather.

Among the remaining seventy-one sister plants are several that show real promise and in due time will be studied and named. One diminutive individual with short leaves and big golden flowers should make a very suitable subject for the partly shaded rock garden.

The most pleasing part of the entire experiment was the fact that I found my GOLDEN NYMPH among the plants of the F_1 generation. F_2 generation plants are now on their way to demonstrate what treasures they can produce.

To anyone wishing to try similar experiments with other genera I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of working with species rather than with plants that have resulted from so many crosses and re-crosses that their genetic characters are a hodge-podge.

Some Notes on *Iris Munzii*

Excerpted from Signa, November, 1971, No. 8

R. C. Richards

There is an increasing interest in *Iris munzii* and since we live within a couple of hundred miles of the native species, my wife Joyce and I spent some time investigating the species and observing it in the field. Since we have uncovered some information which does not seem to have been made available in publications, we felt it was time to make this information available to others, who might be interested in the species.

I. munzii has the largest flowers among the Californicae, and color perhaps the nearest to a true blue. We have seen it from a very pale sky-blue through medium blue to a fairly deep purple, and into red-violet on occasion. The flowers tend to be narrow in the falls, which are occasionally frilly. The substance of the flowers is good, and some flowers are found with recurved falls. They have strong, erect stems, with no branching. Three flowers to the stem is common. The foliage is grey-green or blue-green, and rather broad for Pacifica foliage. It is attractive during the growing season, but tends to look rather bad the rest of the year. During the blooming season, quite attractive specimens are not uncommon.

Other people have commented on the fact that *Iris munzii* occurs in rather deep shade in its native range, and rarely in full sun. We have seen it once in full sun. Partly sunny to deeply shady areas seem to be its preference, perhaps because these areas tend to retain a bit of moisture during the summer. Dr. Lee Lenz does grow it successfully in full sun at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens, so it is definitely not averse to full sun, even in Southern California. It gets considerable moisture during its growing season; the rains start in California during late October or early November and continue off and on into April. We have seen *I. munzii* growing in three or four inches of water in the drainage channels which pass for creeks during the wet season, and which dry up completely by early summer. The iris seems to get no water during the summer, and often the soil dries out completely well before the summer is over. Daytime temperatures above 90° F. are common throughout the summer.

There are two interesting questions about *I. munzii* on which we can perhaps throw some new light. One is the question of just how far north the native range of this iris extends. The other is how much cold it will take.

The type area is the region around Coffee Camp, a few miles east of Springville in the foothills of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. This is the Tule River drainage area. It occurs fairly extensively in the foothills up to nearly 3000 feet. However, there are stands further north, in the Sequoia National Park, which is in the drainage area of the Kaweah River. Some say these stands may have been introduced into the area by Bill Schortman, an iris breeder who on fishing trips some years ago scattered *I. munzii* seeds from Coffee Camp in this area. Joyce and I observed only one stand in this area, but it seems not to have been introduced into the area by anyone.

Due to the kindness of Ranger Jack Rockwell, the Naturalist for Sequoia National Park, we were able to see a stand of *I. munzii* within the park. This stand was along one of the depressed drainage channels which pass for creeks during the spring. According to Ranger Rockwell, this creek dries up completely every summer. This makes it rather unlikely as a fishing spot to have attracted Mr. Schortman. Also there is a falls below this area, which prevents any fish from coming up the stream during the winter. The iris along this stream grow well on some very steep slopes which would have deterred anyone carrying fishing gear. They deterred me carrying camera gear. There are now two locked gates on the dirt road into this area, though there may not have been any gates thirty years ago when Mr. Schortman was scattering iris seeds. The remoteness, the total lack of fishing potential, and the growth of the iris on steep hillsides all suggest this is an native indigenous stand.

Correspondence with Mrs. Joyce Reese in Three Rivers, just outside the park, indicates that there is a number of stands of iris in the area of the Kaweah River, but we have not been able to see any of the others as yet.

Another factor which suggests that there are indigenous stands in this area is the time of bloom of the different areas. Mr. Schortman obtained his seed at Coffee Camp. In our visit to the area we found the Coffee Camp stand in full bloom much earlier than the Sequoia Park stand. In early April, the iris at Coffee Camp were in nearly full bloom. On the same day the stands in the Park had only one or two blooms and most of the buds were not close to opening. The difference between the two areas in altitude is slight; Coffee Camp is around 1200 feet, while the Sequoia Park stand is around 1700 feet. On the same day we had found stands of the iris above Coffee Camp at the 2000 foot level in full bloom. From information we obtained from Mrs. Reese, all the Kaweah iris seem to bloom much later than those at Coffee Creek. This difference in bloom time between the two areas does suggest that the stands have been isolated from each other for some time. But perhaps other factors are involved here, and much more study is needed.

The other question is the sensitivity to cold of *Iris munzii*. The stands we have observed at nearly 3000 feet get some cold and snow in their native habitat. Mrs. Reese reports seeing stands of *I. munzii* under snow in some areas in and around the Park. Joyce and I have been growing *I. munzii* for three years here at our home at the 4200 foot level in the San Gabriel Mountains, and we have our iris disappear under 2½ feet of snow for a month at a time, and we have not noticed any damage. It is true that neither we nor the southern Sierras get much freezing of the ground. Reports from Washington suggest that very deep freezing tends to kill the iris. It is possible, though, that the stands growing at the higher elevations in their native range are less sensitive to cold. Since most of the seed available in the last few years has been collected from Coffee Camp, which is the most accessible source, it would perhaps be of use for those in colder climates who wish to try *I. munzii* to get seed from the higher elevations.

Here and There

I have taken Doris Foster's advice (*Almanac,* Fall 1976, page 8) and put our new small plants of Pacific Coast native iris hybrids into pots. It certainly has helped to ensure that they get the attention they need while becoming established.

The soil in which the irises are planted is what old greenhouse gardeners and nurserymen call "second soil"—it is soil recovered from pots in which other plants have grown. Nurserymen nowadays are concerned about the risk of soil borne diseases and don't use second soil. They are also concerned, or the biggest operators are, with the production of vast numbers of plants all of equal size and uniform appearance. To ensure this, their soil mixes are made to strict formulas from standardized ingredients. Even that valuable but variable substance loam finds no place in these mixes.

My second soil contains ground fir bark, sphagnum peat, perlite and garden soil in about equal volumes. It is a mixture of my own devising and I find that it retains moisture well but is gritty and quick draining. Fuchsias grew well in it and all the experts say that the Pacific Coast irises need soil that is very much the same as my fuchsia mixture. The risk of transmitting disease from fuchsias to irises is very slight.

There were a number of one gallon plastic pots left from a large planting of lavenders that I had made for a client and these were used for the irises. In plastic pots, soil doesn't dry out as quickly as in clay pots and this, I suspect, is better for the Californian irises; they seem to want steady conditions and certainly would not survive a dry spell while the roots are still colonizing the soil.

Since early Spring, when signs of growth were seen on a few of the potted irises, I have been supplementing the meager rains with water from a faucet. To this from time to time I have added small amounts of fertilizer. The choice of fertilizer is completely haphazard and is made from among several free samples acquired at flower shows and other events at which the horticultural trade exhibits. Fertilizers high in nitrogen tend to alternate with those high in phosphorus or potassium and I suspect that the resulting nutrients are as balanced in that soil mixture as are those of any fertilizer added to a soil of unknown chemistry. However careless my choice of fertilizer brand names, my dilution of them in water is meticulous; I always use half the recommended amount. I do not want to risk damage to those precious roots by supplying too strong a solution of nutrients and by diluting fertilizers more than is called for on the label, the risk is lessened.

The plants, in their pots of second soil, are lined up along the top of a low retaining wall. They are thus conspicuous and are even less likely to be overlooked than Doris Foster had hoped. What is more, they are at a height that is convenient for inspection. Any sign of distress can be seen at once and healthy new growth gives immediate delight and cause for self-congratulation.

(I have found, in gardens where some beds are raised and others are at ground level, it is the raised beds which first get attention, they are freest of weeds and in them the plants look best. In my ideal garden, all plants will be grown in beds raised at least eighteen inches from the ground.)

This treatment of the irises, based on expediency and personal convenience, has nevertheless been rewarded with success. Of the forty-eight plants potted up in the autumn, only three have failed to survive. These included, I am sorry to say, Mrs. Brummitt's BANBURY GNOME and Joe Ghio's COUNCILMAN. Their loss is no reflection upon the raiser nor, I believe, upon the expediency of my methods. The plants wer obtained from many different sources—some from society plant sales—and I can only speculate on what they may have endured before reaching me.

Of the remaining forty-five plants, most have grown vigorously and some tremendously. PASADENA INDIAN has had five flowers of mulberry and fawn. WESTERN HERO, already a large and lusty plant is opening (late March) its yellow-veined, white flowers. The brightest thing among them so far is CAPE SEBASTIAN with large purple flares on ice-white petals. Many others are fat with buds and I'm glad I took the advice about the pots, but would Doris condone, I wonder, my substitution of second soil for Supersoil?

W. G. W.

IRIS LONGIPETALA, TENAX, HARTWEGII

Making New Friends

When new SPCNI members acquire seeds of Pacific Coast Native Hybrids they quite often receive mixtures of hybrids and/or species, not necessarily from one cross, and so when these are planted there is wonder about their survival.

If by looking at these seeds one observes that some have a spherical or round form, probably they are from *I. douglasiana* or hybrids of it. According to W. R. Dykes: " . . . it is the only member of the group that has practically spherical and not thick D-shaped or cubical seeds . . ." If you are in areas where there is doubt about the survival of Pacific Coast native irises it would be worthwhile to experiment with these seeds first.

When your seedlings have bloomed and have made pods a further selection may be made by observing the pods. " . . . the ripe capsules of all the Californian Irises are rounded in outline or section, and quite distinct from the sharply-angled fruit of *I. douglasiana* . . ." Ibid. So look for sharply-angled pods and round seeds if you want to develop plants with strong douglasiana traits. Perhaps then strains may be developed which will survive the harsher climates east of the Sierra.

Plantings should be under high branched trees to protect them from cold in winter and heat in summer. In their normal habitats they quite often are found growing in clearings, at edges of tree groves apparently searching for some sun and some shade.

If soils are acid to very acid, it might be wise to experiment with additions of some dolomite. Dara Emery of the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens, as quoted in our Almanac, uses the following formula to grow californicae seedlings:

2 parts Canadian peat moss (pre-moistened)
2 parts #30 crystal white sand (a washed sharp sand)
1 part perlite or sponge rock

For each 200 lbs. of sand used:

4 oz. potassium nitrate
4 oz. potassium sulfate
2½ lb. single superphosphate
7½ lb. dolomite
2½ lb. calcium carbonate (oyster shell)

3 or 4 inch pots

This non-soil potting mix does not need to be sterilized. It is a modification of the U.C. mix obtained from the University of California Extension Service's Manual 23 entitled: "The U.C. System for Producing Healthy Container Grown Plants," edited by Kenneth F. Baker.

Before following this procedure one should read the whole article which appears in the Almanac, March 1975, Volume II, Number 2.

There are several good books in print, not all readily available. Some of these are:

Cohen, Victor A.
A Guide to the Pacific Coast Native Irises. British Iris Society, 1967.

Dykes, William R.
The Genus Iris. Dover edition. 1974.

Lenz, Lee W.
A revision of *The Pacific Coast Irises*. *Aliso*, 4: 1-72. 1958.

Lenz, Lee W.
Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Irises. *Aliso*, 4: 237-309. 1959.

Cohen's booklet and Dykes' reprint edition are still readily available. For beginners, Cohen's booklet is the most valuable because it provides easy identification of the various species. The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is negotiating with the British Iris Society for some extra copies of the Cohen booklets so that its members may be able to purchase them more conveniently.

Have you purchased californicae plants by mail, and after their arriving in more or less good condition, you wonder whether or not they are dead or alive? The first thing to do is cut off all dead foliage and get down to the new growth, if any; then check the roots. If there are new fleshy ones just starting chances are they are fine. If you do not find any new roots, then you might try soaking them in water for two or three days; and in some cases (such as when I received some which were ten days or more in transit and arrived quite dessicated), they should be soaked for a longer time, until some new roots start showing their tips. If you receive them in a condition where they are black all the way through, they have "had it." I think they will take more kindly to a little drying out than being too wet in transit. I have lost few plants, but when I did, it was usually due to too much water at the wrong time and place.

If you keep your plants *well* drained until they are established you may find you have developed new friendships in your garden. "Well drained" does not mean *no* water, it means *water well* but water *must* keep on travelling through.

We of the SPCNI would like to hear from those growing californicae irises east of the Sierra.

Francesca Thoolen

Check List Update for Pacific Coast Natives

Registrations and Introductions, 1976

BANBURY CANDY (M. Brummitt, R. 1976). Sdlg. 192. CA, 12" (30 cm), M, 5LYO/5LYO. Orange-buff self. (*I. douglasiana* x *I. innominata*) X (*I. innominata* x *I. douglasiana*).

BANBURY PAGEANT (M. Brummitt, R. 1976). Sdlg. 193. CA, 12" (30 cm), M, DRV8W/LRV. S. Royal purple, white center; F. light purple. *I. douglasiana* x *I. innominata.*

BIG BONANZA (McCaskill, R. 1976). Sdlg. 72-7. CA, 18" (46 cm), M, PY7LRV/51rvPY7RV8-5Y. S. cream with light lilac-purple veining; cream stylearms lightly flushed lilac-purple, F. cream based, washed lilac-purple, veined darker lilac-purple, gold signal. Unknown parentage. EC 1976.

BLUE BIRD CANYON (McCaskill, R. 1976). Sdlg. L.H. 70-109-B. CA, 18" (46 cm), M-L, LB7PB/FB7RV-B8RVlb. S. light bluebird blue, paler veining; F. medium bluebird blue, veined blue at outer edge, turning purple around purple signal; small mustard yellow center; light bluebird blue stylearms with darker flush on crest. Unknown parentage.

COUNCILMAN (Ghio, CA, R. 1975). Bay View 1976.

DEL MAR (W. Gunther, R. 1976). CA, 20" (50 cm), ML, LB9DV/V6LB. S. light blue, deep violet base; turquoise styles; F. violet edged light blue. Parentage unknown. Cordon Bleu 1976.

EL CENTRO (J. Ghio, R. 1976). Sdlg. PW-175-0. CA, 14" (36 cm), LRV/5bgLRV. S. lavender; F. lavender with turquoise wash. San Lorenzo X PZ-173: (Sierra Sapphire x Cabrillo). Bay View 1976.

FLAMENCO QUEEN (McCaskill, R. 1976). Sdlg. 69-Y-117. CA, 18" (46 cm), M, PY/vPY7DV-B8Y. S. cream, slight lavender tone midribs; F. light cream with pale violet flush, darker violet veining, tapering to blue tone; yellow signal dotted violet; cream stylearms. Unknown parentage.

FRANCISCAN PADRE (McCaskill, R. 1976). Sdlg. 72-87. CA, 16" (41 cm), M, FY7B/FY7RV8Y. S. medium buttercup yellow, light imperial purple midrib, bluish veining; F. medium buttercup yellow, veined and lightly flushed imperial purple, yellow signal; medium buttercup stylearms lightly flushed blue-gray. Grubstake X large purple seedling.

GABRIELINO INDIAN (McCaskill, R. 1976). Sdlg. 72-09. CA, 15" (38 cm), M, 5vrPYO7-5VR/5vrPYO8W. S. light salmon with veining and light overlay of erythrite red, ruffled; F. salmon, heavily overlaid with erythrite red, fan of darker erythrite red, white at center with some yellow toward outer edge; pale salmon stylearms with light brushing of erythrite red on crest. Parentage unknown.

MAYOR (J. Ghio, R. 1976). Sdlg. PW-1961. CA, 14" (36 cm), E, LB/LB8DB. Light blue self with deep blue spot on F. Western Queen X P4-169: (Pasatiempo x collected blue *I. munzii*). HC 1976.

MISTY LAVENDER (McCaskill, R. 1976). Sdlg. 71-47. CA, 15" (38 cm), E & M. S. light aster-violet, slightly darker veining; F. pale aster-violet with deeper aster-violet veining; small yellow signal; pale aster-violet stylearms; ruffled. Unknown parentage.

NATIVE PAISANO (McCaskill, R. 1976). Sdlg. 58-B-102. CA, 12" (30 cm), M. S. parchment with pale overlay of rose-purple and darker rose-purple veins; F. parchment with overlay of light rose-purple, rose-purple veining, yellow fan pattern with rose-purple dotting; parchment stylearms with rose-purple at midrib and brushed on crest. Unknown parentage.

NOVIA DEL MAR (D. Foster, R. 1976). Sdlg. Cal. 75-1-1. CA, 30" (76 cm), E-M, PYpy/PYvb7BV. S. fluted creamy yellow; creamy yellow styles; F. creamy yellow with brighter yellow fan surrounded by blue-violet overlay upon opening, changing to blue; veined blue-violet; lower petal cream. Sierra Sapphire X Chimes. Foster Iris 1976.

PIQUE (T. Abell, CA, R. 1975). Cordon Bleu 1976.

RESTLESS NATIVE (Ghio, CA, R. 1975). Bay View 1976.

SANTA RITA (J. Ghio, R. 1976). Sdlg. PW-187A. CA, 12" (30 cm), E, yW/yW8LY. Creamy white with light yellow spot on F. Western Hero X Western Queen.

SOQUEL COVE (J. Ghio, R. 1976). Sdlg. PW-182C. CA, 14" (36 cm), E, W/bgW. S. white; F. white with turquoise wash. PY-169: (Pasatiempo x collected blue *I. munzii*) X PZ-145Z: (Ojai x Aptos).

Drought Sprought

It started in Marin County, California last year; rationing that is. The reason is drought. Why that drought sprouted only in Marin and was non-existent elsewhere nearby I have yet to understand. In any case it was decided that this year nearby Contra Costa County, too, would be a drought-declared county. Then other counties were sprouting here and there as drought was spreading more and more.

One of our first adjustments to this condition is to learn how to stretch water as far as possible. The use of gray water, i.e., recycled household water, for the garden and other purposes is the first thing that comes to mind. However, before we do this, it would be additionally helpful to make sure that water is going to do more than supply one area of growth. How can that be? very simple: place your potted plants in the garden near plants which must have water more frequently than others. Then when pots are watered, the run-off will supply nearby plants with additional moisture. Immersing the pot in the ground will help to keep it cool and reduce its water loss by half. In other beds, where irrigation is the practice, another way to delay watering is to cultivate your beds, make your ditches as deeply as roots will allow and fill those ditches with ground leaves or other mulch, up to near, but not touching, the plants. This will help greatly, and provide compost you can turn in later when the beds are redone. After a three week interval I have tested my ditches and they are still moist. In a normal year I would have to water weekly to keep those seedlings growing. Now that a water saving foundation has been laid you can apply your gray water, right? Wrong.–There are different kinds of gray water. There are different soaps and detergents used in a household operation. Some of these are liquid dishsoap for hand dishwashing, detergents for dishwashers, laundry washing machines, and the soaps for showers and baths. The liquid dishsoaps or detergents for handwashing of dishes have a much smaller amount of sodium and/or phosphates than the automatic dishwashing detergents which use a very high amount. This is the main objection to using gray water directly on plants. What can be done? The dishwasher can be used only in special circumstances such as where many people have dined. The washing machine is used only when there is a full load of laundry. All faucets have basins to catch any clean water, such as cold water run off while waiting for the hot. Discontinue use of waste food disposals (they need water to grind). Start a compost pile or bury your garbage; it's good for the garden. When showering use the three gallon method, i.e., wet, shut off, suds, rinse off and get out! Of course save this water too, since if you use soap it will fall in the "best" category for the garden. A good scoop for bailing out shower water can be made by cutting off the bottom of a large size plastic distilled water container. The laundry water can be used to wash floors, and its rinse water to rinse them. If you are indeed desperate, the water used for doing those floors is still good for a first flush of toilet bowls, using some of that shower water for the second flush which stays in the bowl with a little bleach added to keep the bowl clean. What remains of the hand dishwashing and shower water can be saved for the garden. The clean water (waiting for faucet water to heat) can be saved to cook with later. The dish rinse water, if heated and soap added, can be used again to wash the next group of dishes, thereby only needing clean rinse water. This can go on and on; each household has probably its own special way to save on water usage, allowing more water for the garden.

However before using this gray water on plants it is highly recommended to use certain precautions. First purchase some nitrazine at your drug store. This comes in a roll. You tear off a strip and dip it in the water to test its pH. Detergents tend to render water alkaline which some plants such as californicae, siberians, and other irises do not like; they would show signs of stress in due time. The nitrazine will tell you how alkaline the water is and the recommended remedy is to add small amounts of ferrous sulphate until the reading is acceptable. It would still be wise to use fresh water on rhododendrons, azaleas and other sensitive acid-loving plants. Many nurseries are recommending thin pruning of plants to cut down transpiration (don't thin too much or plants will be encouraged to grow more and we don't want that), less feeding of plants to cut down speed of growth and less watering because plants are generally overwatered.

During this crisis the word for gardeners is *survival* not growth, or even bloom. If we can save our plants we may look forward to another year and maybe another bloom.

Francesca Thoolen

Letters

Looking over the *Almanac*, I see much of interest, and am so delighted that there is concern for the Pacific irises. I have long been an admirer of them and while living in Los Gatos had a wide range of colors and flower types in my garden. In the "old days" there was a group in the California Horticultural Society who were deeply interested; from one of them, Iva Cates, I got my start of *I. douglasiana* x *I. innominata.* Iva was generous with seed of anything she had. I never saw her garden, but we corresponded and she gave me seed of the Bellingham hybrid lilies, of which I still have a few here in the mountains.

Iris douglasiana is not hardy at this elevation, but the crosses with *I. innominata* do superbly and I have a full range of yellows, from very pale to quite deep, some with brown lines. I reselect frequently to obtain good colors, as well as narrow foliage, which I prefer.

In looking over the issue of *Pacific Horticulture* for April 1976 and admiring again the splendid photos of iris, I was wondering if the species *Iris fernaldii* were used in some of McCaskill's hybrids? The photo on page 53 certainly looks like some I used to study in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and wrote about in the *Journal of the California Horticultural Society,* Vol. XX, No. 2, April-June 1959. This iris, or a seedling which looks very much like *I. fernaldii,* is doing quite well here in the mountains, which surprised me, though it does grow in the coast mountains and perhaps also in Sonoma and Lake Counties, but not usually as high as our elevation here, 3000 feet.

Marjorie G. Schmidt

Editor's note: Majorie Schmidt is a garden writer who is working on a book about plants native to California. Her writings frequently appear in *Fremontia*, the journal of the California Native Plant Society edited by Margedant Hayakawa.

JEAN WITT, Washington, on Pacific Coast native iris for her climate: *I douglasiana* is my only candidate for muggy tolerant; and I'm not too sure how tolerant of summer moisture it really is.

Being a relative newcomer to the joys of western gardening, I have become thoroughly impressed with the beauty and grace of the Californicae. CANYON SNOW, planted last October, shows vigor unsurpassed by the other natives in my garden. The delicate blooms add a sharp contrast to the glossy foliage of the autumn fern adjacent to it. It looks content in the bed on the north-east side of the house; perhaps next year I can add another adjective to its description—spectacular!

Maryann M. Anning
Los Altos Hills, CA

From Pamela Harper, Seaford, VA

My own favorites (among the irises) are the wee ones, Irises cristata, verna, and tectorum, and Roy Davidson's "Rosedown" strain of Pacific Coast hybrids (which) do wonderfully well here, nor were they harmed by this awful 5° F. winter.

John Zanini of Rough and Ready, California, reports:

Two species I have in great abundance are *Iris hartwegii* and *I. macrosiphon*, and one I suppose to be a hybrid between the two, though they usually are not in bloom at the same time. *I. hartwegii* blooms in May and June with lavender, cream and yellow color variations. *I. macrosiphon* blooms earlier, often in April, generally in late April and May; I have found only purple and gold blooms. The supposed hybrid's period of bloom extends over the same range of both species and blooms are in the same color range.

All do not give a good period of bloom every year, mostly because of variations in weather. Both enjoy pine needle cover and some shade as well as getting their roots under a rock. I wonder, does their like for pine needle cover tell us their appreciation for acid soil? Small amounts of superphosphate sprinkled around the root area during a strong rain improves bloom color and stem strength. Superphosphate should be fed while plants are in active spring growth before bloom spikes are visible. Nitrogen fertilizer and summer water will destroy these iris.

We have had friends in Scotland and Switzerland succeed with seeds sent as soon as ripe.

Additions to Membership And New Subscribers

Brummitt, Mrs. Marjorie
30 Bloxham Rd.
Banbury, Oxon, England

Burch, James
Route 5 Box 306
Huntsville, AL 35811

Davidson, LeRoy
911 Western Ave., 200
Seattle, WN 98104

Duvall, Mary
Dassell, MN 55325

Hamblen, Melba
2778 West 5600 South
Roy, UT 84067

James, Cassie
926 Brown Rd.
Camden, SC 29020

Margedant Hayakawa
P.O. Box 100
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Lawyer, Lewis & Adele
4333 Oak Hill Rd.
Oakland, CA 94605

Malone, Marge
6057 Shoup Ave.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Owen, Archie
1411 Crest Dr.
Encinitas, CA 92024

Pederson, Mrs. N. S.
922 S. Fifth St.
Norfolk, NE 68701

Peterson, Clara
10587 Franklin Ave
Yuma, AZ 85368

Prentiss, Esther
1799 Highview Ave.
Akron, Ohio 44301

Rodovsky, George
P.O. Box 724
Kinsman, IL 60437

Schmidt, Marjorie
P.O. Box 328
Harfork, CA 96041

Smith, Robertson V.
2369 - 103rd Ave.
Oakland, CA 94603

Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society
c/o C. Mangin
1133 Seminary Ave.
Oakland, CA 94621

Welborn, Evangeline
4109 Camellia Ave.
No. Hollywood, CA 91604

Willott, Tony & Dorothy
26231 Shaker Blvd.
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Zanini, John
Star Route, Box 175
Rough & Ready, CA 95975

Howard W. Goodrick
Country Village Gardens
16620 W. Pepper
Brookfield, WI 53005

Maynard, Mrs. J.
38, The Ridgeway
Kenton, Harrow HA3 OLL
England

Exchanges:

Regions 1, 4, 8, 16, 17 & 24.
Siberian Iris Society
AIS Historical Committee

French Iris Society
c/o Secy-Gen M. Roger Renard
136 Ave. Savorgnan/Brazza
83160 La Vallette du Var
France

Address change:

Hubley, Robert P.
9230 Colorado Ave.
Arlington, CA 92503

O'Brien, Lois
637 Westridge Dr.
Portola Valley, CA 94025

Chesnik, Ray
130 West La Cienaga
San Marcos, CA 92069

Nos Reunions De 1977

Excerpt from Société Française des Iris et Plantes Bulbeuses (French Iris Society) April 1977.

" . . . particularly for those who sent plants for the 1978 Congress, we would like to point out that the Spring Meeting which is at the Parc Floral de la Source in Orléans (France) will be this year on May 21-22, 1977, where you may view the first season bloom of the guest plants sent by overseas exhibitors most of whom are well known American hybridizers . . . . One full day is set aside for visiting the Cayeaux gardens in the morning and Michel Bourdillon gardens in the afternoon . . ." Roger Renard, Secretary General.

Translated by
Francesca Thoolen

Errata

Fall, 1976 *Almanac:*

Page 7, Iris Congress in France, last paragraph should read: " . . . the country agricultural inspectors will now inspect for the federal inspectors so there is no need for going too far out of one's way to have the iris inspected.

As published it read "will not."

Membership list:

Gunther zip code should be 92014.
Messer zip code should be 60185.
Robert Smith apartment is No. 36.
Japan Iris Society is in Nishinomiya.

Figures on the Treasurer's report were correct but some were not properly aligned. Disbursements totalled $34.24, leaving a balance on hand of $838.96.

Minutes of September Meeting

Copies of the agenda were distributed to members present. The President, Francesca Thoolen, brought the meeting to order.

August Phillips reported on the meeting in Santa Barbara, on Saturday, April 3rd. A panel consisting of Dara Emery, Richard Richards and Doris Foster discussed native iris culture. A tour of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden native iris plantings followed.

Charles Hopson gave the treasurer's report. We have a balance of $838.96 as of September 1, 1976.

Doris Foster reported on the executive committee meeting held prior to the Aril Society meeting in July. We discussed getting prices on our own business stationery. Prices on half-size sheets and full-size sheets and the appropriate envelopes were obtained, report of which is attached hereto. Olive Rice and Doris Foster were asked to investigate prices. Glenn Corlew made a motion to obtain stationery at the lowest possible price. Motion seconded and passed.

A report on the Slide Library was given by Francesca. Glenn Corlew is our new Slide Chairman. We have 60-70 slides in our collection, and when we have some 100 slides we will start our rental library.

Francesca gave us a report on membership.

Olive Rice reported for the Publications Committee on progress with the Fall *Almanac*.

Francesca presented a report for the Ways and Means Committee, with several suggestions for fund-raising. Ideas were welcomed in this regard.

On new business, the question was raised whether dues renewal should be made directly to the American Iris Society. Bob Brooks reported that all dues of Society members must be brought to the same due date before A.I.S. will take over dues collection. Glenn Corlew expressed an opinion that it would be better to collect our own dues. A motion was made that our SPCNI dues be paid directly to our treasurer, Mr. Hopson. It was seconded and carried.

In regard to the A.I.S. Historical Committee, Olive Rice reported that Larry Harder needs records for the historical files. She moved that we send a complimentary copy of the Almanac to A.I.S. It was seconded and carried.

An invitation was extended by the Friends of the University of California Botanic Garden in Berkeley, to attend an Open House Sunday, Sept. 26 from 10 to 3 p.m. and to become a member. It was decided to table becoming members of the U.C. Botanic Garden for the present.

In regard to the discussion of having a SPCNI Modular Display as done by Jean Witt, a motion was made that we adopt in principle a display approving an expenditure of $50.00; seconded and carried.

It was agreed that we would have auctions to raise funds. August Phillips will do the organizing.

After discussion, it was decided to elect Mrs. Brummitt of England for Honorary Membership in our Society. Ray Chesni k will chairman a committee for reviewing Honorary Memberships.

It was announced that cultivars may be sent to Lois O'Brien to plant in the Filoli National Trust Estate Garden, c/o Lois O'Brien, 637 Westridge, Portola Valley, CA 94025

The French Iris Society has issued an invitation to enter iris in competition in an INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE IRIS, in the spring of 1977. This has now been postponed until May 1978. A copy of the invitation is attached, and the classes that may be entered.

Dick Sloan reported on Judges Training at Region 14 Fall Meeting, Saturday, Oct. 30, 1976, at the El Rancho Tropicana Hotel in Santa Rosa. There will be a Judges' Training on "Californicae Iris: Soil preparation, digging, transplanting and culture of the new plants" with Glenn Corlew in charge of the training.

The business meeting was adjourned.

The speaker for this September 12th meeting was Ray Chesnik, who conducted a question and answer session on culture of the natives.

Doris Foster

Treasurer's Report

March 26, 1977

Cash on Hand, July 1, 1976			643.20
Receipts			
Dues	375.00		
Sale of Back Issues	25.35		
Ways & Means	28.00		
Convention Display Fund	15.00		
Slide Library Fund	4.00		
Donation	1.50		
	448.85		1092.05
Expenditures			
Slide Library		5.62	
Treasurer Stamps		13.62	
Slide Library		15.00	
Francesca Thoolen (office supplies)		16.15	
Heliographics		54.75	
Stamps		17.03	
Cleo's Printing		184.55	
Olive Rice—postage, stamps, copying		29.93	
		336.65	755.40

Charles R. Hopson

Contents

The *Almanac* of the
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Olive Rice, Editor
1914 Napa Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707 USA

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