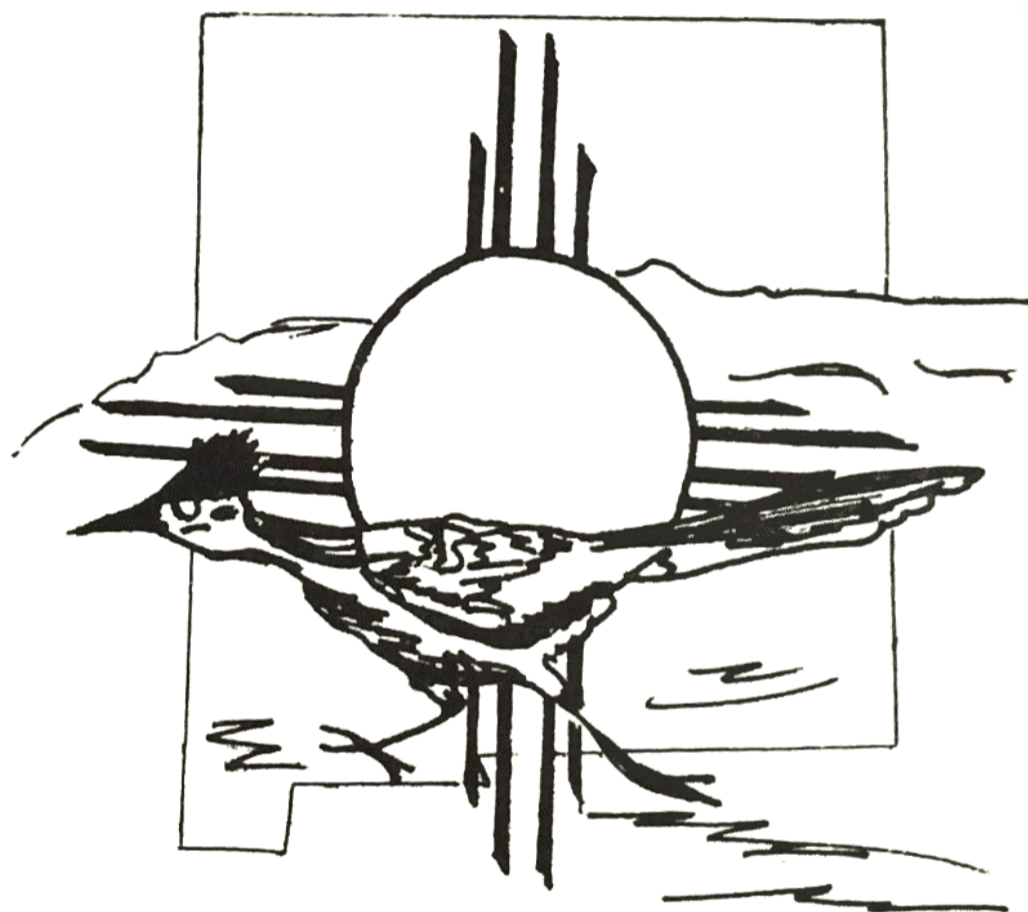


American **IRIS** Society



REGION 23
WINTER 81

OFFICERS

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
505 256-9454 James A. Mahoney
704 Jefferson St., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

ASSISTANT REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
Mrs. Dorothy Steele
3920 Clinton Blvd., Albuquerque, NM 87105

SECRETARY
Mrs. Lucille Mahoney
704 Jefferson St., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

TREASURER
Mrs. W. H. McKinley
3109 Diamond A Drive, Roswell, NM 88201

IMMEDIATE PAST REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
Mrs. Patricia Clauser
P. O. Box 1006, Corrales, NM 87048

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
WE NEED ONE...FROM THE ALBUQUERQUE AREA

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Mrs. Dorothy Steele
3920 Clinton Blvd., Albuquerque, NM 87105

JUDGES TRAINING CHAIRMAN
Mr. Robert D. Steele
3920 Clinton Blvd., Albuquerque, NM 87105

MEDIAN REPRESENTATIVE
Mrs. J. Yocum

Invitations to AIS for hosting National Conventions are:

Denver in 1982 and Seattle in 1984

Events to keep in mind in 1981:

Mesilla Valley Iris Show	April
Iris Show in Hobbs	April 28
National AIS Convention St. Louis, Missouri	May 12-16
Roswell Iris Show	May 10
New Mexico Iris Society Show	May 9-10
Iris Sale & Auction Albuquerque, New Mexico	July 18

MESSAGE FROM YOUR R.V.P.

A new year, a new RVP...but I can't say an old RVP fades away... for Patty Clauser is not old, and a look at her acreage in Corrales certainly doesn't show any signs of her fading away.

We had a terrific Region 23 Convention hosted by the New Mexico Iris Society. Betty Roberts gave us all the support we needed to make it a success. She and Patty made arrangements with a great bunch of ladies, the Petal Pushers, to cater the dinner right at the Garden Center...and they provided us with a wonderful meal. Bonnie Lowenstein had the Garden Center all spic and span for our meetings and decorated the tables. Irene Shockey, for a gal that says she doesn't make flower arrangements, provided over a dozen arrangements that added the final touch to a beautiful setting. I can't name all those that helped and I am not going to try, for as sure as shooting, I'd leave a name out and I certainly would not want to do that. As Chairman of that meeting, I want to thank everybody that worked, baked cookies and cakes, and most of all those that attended.

Mesilla Valley Iris Society has volunteered to host the 1981 Convention and Lea County Iris Society has offered to host the 1982 Convention. We (I've got a little mouse in my pocket) are looking forward to those meetings, as somehow these conventions produce a group of fine talks, good after dinner speakers, an excellent judges training session, and the meeting of old friends and a chance to make new friends.

This year's convention was made successful through the generosity of Ben Hager, Sid DuBose and Melrose Gardens. Two big boxes of iris rhizomes arrived three or four days before the convention from Melrose with a note to auction, raffle or whatever to help pay the expenses of our guest speaker, Ben Hager. Among the rhizomes were three or four of Ben's "BEVERLY STILLS." Val White said Patty Clauser would give an arm and a leg to get BEVERLY at an auction. Between the two of us we decided not to tell Patty we had more than one rhizome of it. So, after dinner when Ben had finished his talk, Val and Barbara Figge started auctioning off the various rhizomes. When they got to BEVERLY, Patty got all fired up and made up her mind she was going to outbid everybody, which she did. I don't remember the exact amount she bid, but it was over a \$20 bill. Then Val brought out the other rhizomes and with an ear-to-ear grin, offered the others at the same price Patty paid for hers and sold them. I had to tell that story as it was a highlight of the convention for me to find that Patty could be conned. Lucille Mahoney sold raffle chances on an assortment of medians, beardless and potted tall bearded irises. The auction netted over \$300 and the raffle \$75. A total of 40 persons attended the meetings and 69 attended the banquet. After all bills and expenses were paid by George Nickel, he had \$268.48 left over. The New Mexico Iris Society graciously voted to pass up their share of the surplus money to add to our reserve funds to aid host societies that weren't as fortunate as we were.

Now, to get down to a new term for a new RVP. I would like to publish four BULLETINS a year with the help of Dorothy Steele, as Editor, which she has been for a bunch of years. I need articles from the 158 AIS members the Region now has. Not all of us are blue ribbon iris growers

and I know there are plenty of our members that are... share your success with us. Share the varieties by name of those irises that grow so well for you, be they new or old.

Let's help each other have a Blooming New Year every year!

Jim Mahoney

REGION 23 CONVENTION - Albuquerque, New Mexico - Sunday, October 12, 1980

Jim Mahoney, Convention Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Region 23 Convention. Patty Clauser, RVP, called the meeting to order. There was no Treasurer's report from Roswell, New Mexico, and an estimate of funds was \$834.02. Region 23 has 151 members with 4-each affiliates. There was no old business.

New business items: There was a definite possibility of AIS dues being raised.

A motion was made by Betty Roberts for a donation of \$50 for a Youth Medal die to be cast. This donation to be made to AIS. Barbara Figge seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Bill Brown to have an Annual Region 23 Convention. Donna Downey seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Las Cruces was mentioned as a good possibility for the 1981 Convention.

A motion was made by Jim Mahoney (under Region 23 Guidelines established at the First Regional Convention) to disburse all funds in excess of the cost to the Region 23 1980 Convention, to defray any costs of local societies which may be incurred in future conventions. Barbara Figge seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Janice Wilson to adjourn the meeting. Gus Seligman seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie A. White, Recording Secretary

GREEN DREAMS
by Hannah Mary Perate

*Green dreams in dark nights
Light a path to higher spheres --
Swelling the heart with new-spun joy,
Lacing adverse events together
To form life's pattern,
A beauty too close to be seen.*

Credit to "St. Anthony Messenger" - January 1981 Issue.

REGION 23 RVP FUND:

On June 1, 1980, the total assets of the RVP Fund were: \$ 609.02

Increases since June 1, 1980:

New Mexico Iris Society:	\$ 225.00	
Albuquerque Aril Society:	225.00	
	\$ 550.00	Total \$1,059.02

Debits since June 1, 1980:

Summer Newsletter	\$ 137.54	
Flyer for Regional Meeting & Ballot	48.50	
Gift for Bennett Jones - 1979 Wind Chimes	16.59	
Refreshments	10.50	
Membership Prizes 1979	20.00	
Membership Prizes 1980	20.00	
Jim Copeland - Model for Youth Medal	50.00	
Dot Steele - Scrapbook	10.00	
	\$ 312.88	- 312.88

On January 30, 1981, the total assets were: \$ 746.14

REGIONAL MEETING FUND AIS:

On June 1, 1980, the balance was: \$ 216.19
This was increased from the Regional Meeting in Albq., by 268.48

No checks have been written on this account, which is in a savings account.

The balance as of January 30, 1981, is: \$ 484.67

Submitted by
Mrs. W. H. McKinley
3109 Diamond A Drive
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

AREA REPORTS:

Happenings in Las Cruces..... by Tom Little

This year the MVIS Christmas party was a costume party with the theme "Come as an iris." There were many unusual and interesting costumes to be seen. As incentive, the club membership voted for their favorite costume, and the top seven vote-getters received iris rhizomes as prizes. Sharon McAllister took first place as "INDIAN PRINCESS," followed by Lil White ("FRONTIER MARSHALL"), Gloria Little ("LITTLE ORCHID ANNIE") and Edie Russell ("RED UNICORN"). Also in evidence that night were creatures such as WILD APACHE, FIVE STAR ADMIRAL, FINE PRINT, JOSEPH'S MANTLE, GAY SENORITA, NAVAJO BLANKET, and SMOKE RINGS.

MVIS has instituted a new policy whereby the Club pays AIS dues for each new member for one year. It is hoped that this will introduce our new members to the benefits of AIS membership, and that many will renew their memberships in future years. We would like to welcome to AIS, Bird and Deonne Sutherland, and Mr. Chris Heckart, new members for 1981.

From Mary Clark of Aztec, New Mexico.....

First, the RVP would like to compliment Mary on her taste in stationery. On the back side of envelope is a beautiful blue iris with a few buds and on the stationery which is round, a border of irises -- quite pretty. She reports that their Society of San Juan County is an enthusiastic and fairly active group. The members are located all over a large area and find it difficult to get together to hold an iris show. Over the county there is a 2-3 week difference in bloom season. They used to display irises in a Farmington Mall, but this is no longer available to them and was used for publicity. However, in the digging period of Summer they take their rhizomes to the flea market hoping to up-grade irises throughout the county. She will report in from time to time and is available to judge when called upon.

From Fran Merrill of Roswell, New Mexico.....

Fran enclosed a membership list of their Society and would you believe, they have a 100% membership in AIS. Fran is President and also a new apprentice judge. Vice President is Mrs. Cecil Eiffert; Secretary is Mrs. Charles Ewart; and Treasurer is Mrs. Keith Siegfried. Their iris show will be held on May 10, 1981.

Region 23 Celebrity.....from Jim Mahoney

Once in awhile Region 23 turns up a celebrity, and I'm very happy to say that your RVP received a letter from Membership Chairman, James G. Burch dated January 12, 1981. It said that the American Iris Society Board of Directors approved a certificate which is awarded to the person in our Region who recruited the most members in 1980. Well, with all that palaver, it's our Hobbs' Bill Brown. CONGRATULATIONS, Bill, I hope you have competition in 1981 from all over the Region. It just might be catching.

The Lea County Iris Society and Yucca Garden Club, in cooperation with the American Iris Society, will present their 17th annual Iris Show, "A NEW BEGINNING," on Tuesday, April 28th at the Hobbs Womens Club building 1776 N. Turner in Hobbs. Mrs. T. E. Bertram is Chairman, Mrs. W. A. Farris and Mr. Bill Brown, Co-Chairmen.

Our January meeting was at the home of Vic and Cherly Berner where the Iris Show was planned.

Our February meeting will be on Saturday, February 21st, at 2:30 p.m. at the Hobbs Public Library. Our RVP, Mr. Jim Mahoney, will be guest speaker and program, showing his slides on Horned, Flounced and Spooned Irises. All garden clubs in Hobbs have been invited to attend and out of town visitors are welcome!

EAST MEETS WEST Henry Danielson & Lu Stopani

Where to start is an interesting thought with so many people in the audience. We only wish you were here, to talk to instead. Several years ago Henry Danielson sent me the small rhizomes, considered scraps removed before shipping. I planted them in the desert with only one watering at the time of planting. Six iris survived so far. The first bloom on iden-

tification will be the Iris to represent the For Pleasure Iris Garden. We will know this Spring and we will let you know. Also in this experiment we planted tall bearded spuria and a few arilbreds. None of these made it through the first Fall. We kept this experiment alive by sending sixty pounds of desert soil to Chicago. The United Parcel Service was baffled at times, I'm sure. The boxes of Iris became a steady flow from Chicago for quite some time, every season. Henry grew a seedling in Chicago and named it "FOR PLEASURE;" in turn, it was the name we chose for our garden here in Chaparril, New Mexico. Last October we were beginning to feel the pressure of precious time. The trailer was unloaded and here lies about one thousand Iris of all kinds and all stages. Some got tossed away. Henry is beginning to see that you must put all discards in the garbage. Instead, he tossed them over his shoulder, without the blessing of good luck. Even at that they are growing on top of the soil, here and there. Much has been done but we can see much more that needs to be done. Some fruit trees, ornamental trees, roses and perennials are waiting for Spring. Aril species, Aril hybrids, tall bearded Intermediates, Border, Dwarf, Californiaceae, Louisiana, Siberian Spuria, a Russian Spuria species and many, many seedlings. This December Henry transplanted 288 pure aril seedlings which are growing under lights, until Spring.

It has not been easy; for instance the green house we built blew out, became a disaster. The door was left open and the wind filled the green house with air. Whoops, there went the roof, and after about the count of ten, the wind was gone, too. One more weekend and everything was back in order, but don't hold your breath. I'm sure everyone has had experiences that come to mind and turn out to be very comical.

We are looking forward to hard work, a beautiful two acres of blooms intermingled with the natural desert.

The following article originally appeared in the JOPLIN GLOBE. It was given to the El Paso Times for reprint several years ago when El Paso became the "City of Iris."

"The iris was named for Iris, the Goddess of the Rainbow, because of their many colors. God placed the rainbow in the heavens as a covenant that never again would the earth be destroyed by flood. The iris is a covenant that heralds the awakening of all nature from its winter's rest, that once again the earth will bear fruits for the benefit of mankind.

The iris is symbolic for there are three petals reaching ever upward towards the heavens, representing the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. They also represent our hearts, minds and souls reaching upward in supplication for guidance.

Three petals turn earthward, representing our daily lives: Father, Mother and Child; home, church and country; faith, hope and charity; understanding, peace and love. Each set of three forms a triangle, the ancient symbol of prayer.

On the downward petals is a sprinkle of gold, typical of the gold in our daily lives -- the gold of worship, friendship, loyalty, patriotism, love and all the fine virtues we should actuate daily.

THE IRIS - continued

Within the three upward petals is another group of three tiny petals pushing upward. These make four sets of three -- or 12 -- symbolic of the 12 disciples who assisted Jesus in His ministry.

The iris is a flower that has rendered service to mankind for it not only beautifies our homes and gardens, but it is used for food, perfume, dyes and medicines." UNKNOWN

I hope you enjoy this as much as I have!

/s/ Revis Abbott

HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLDER

- ...Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
- ...The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
- ...You feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.
- ...Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- ...You get winded playing chess.
- ...Your children begin to look middle-aged.
- ...You finally reach the top of the ladder, and find it leaning against the wrong wall.
- ...You join a health club and don't go.
- ...You begin to outlive enthusiasm.
- ...You decide to procrastinate but then never get around to it.
- ...Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.
- ...You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions.
- ...You look forward to a dull evening.
- ...You walk with your head held high trying to get used to your bifocals.
- ...Your favorite part of the newspaper is 25 years ago today.
- ...You turn out the light for economic rather than romantic reasons.
- ...You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
- ...Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- ...You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.
- ...You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist, and 106 around the golf course.
- ...You stop looking forward to your next birthday.
- ...After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying a second coat.
- ...Dialing long distance wears you out.
- ...You're startled the first time you are addressed as old timer.
- ...You remember today, that yesterday was your wedding anniversary.
- ...You just can't stand people who are intolerant.
- ...The best part of your day is over when your alarm clock goes off.
- ...You burn the midnight oil after 9:00 p.m.
- ...Your back goes out more than you do.
- ...A fortune teller offers to read your face.
- ...Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl go by.
- ...The little gray haired lady you help across the street is your wife.
- ...You get your exercise acting as a pallbearer for your friends who exercise.
- ...You get too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.
- ...You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

1981 AIS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Would you like to see America's best botanical garden? Missouri Botanical Garden (Shaw's Garden) is described in C. Paul Luongo's recent book, AMERICA'S BEST 100, as America's best botanical garden. This garden will be toured during the 1981 AIA Convention. In the botanical garden, in addition to iris, there are the Climatron, the Desert House, the Linnean House, the Mediterranean House, the extensive rose gardens, and the 14-acre Japanese garden. Two other gardens to be included on the first day's tour, Thursday, May 14th, are the Polly Chism Garden at Crystal City, MO and the Delores Kassly Garden in Fairview Heights, IL.

The next day, Friday, May 15th, conventioners will see the gardens of Louise and Gus Bellagamba, Jean and Jim Morris, Marie and Mark Dienstbach, Betty and Russ Wurl, and Betty and Roy Bohrer.

The third day's tour, Saturday, May 16th, will include the gardens of Al Roderick, Viola and George Griffin, Clyde Hahn, Betty and Ed Knight, and Opan Quesnel. On Saturday there will be an awards banquet at 7:30 p.m.

On Wednesday there will be a Welcome Banquet at 8:00 p.m. Also on Wednesday, the Washington Missouri Iris Club will present an Iris Show. Entries will be accepted from 7:30-11:00 a.m. with a limit of 12 horticultural and 6 seedlings per exhibitor. Containers will be furnished. The Show will be open to everyone beginning at 3:00 p.m. For more information on the Show, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Show Chairman, Mrs. Julius Dutton, Labadie, MO 63055.

REGISTRATION FEE:	Received before March 15th:	\$ 94.00
	Received from March 16 to April 15:	\$ 100.00
	Received after April 15th:	\$ 105.00

Mail registration to Mr. S. H. Butt, AIS Convention Registrar
1904 Arrowhead Lane
Godfrey, Illinois 62035 Phone: (618) 466-1842

Partial registration rates will be given upon inquiry to the Convention Registrar and will be honored upon advance registration only. If it is necessary to cancel a registration, full refund will be made if notice is received no later than April 20, 1981. Mail your registration today and take advantage of the discount.

The Convention Headquarters will be at the St. Louis Marriott Airport Hotel, I-70 @ Lambert Airport; St. Louis, MO 63134: Phone (314) 423-9700. The hotel rates are: Single - \$50.00; Double - \$56.00; Triple - \$60.00.

Please make hotel reservations directly with the Marriott. State that you are attending the AIS Convention. Be sure to make your hotel reservations before April 15, 1981, because the rooms will be released to the general public after that date.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Some of the members of the Region have experienced not receiving the AIS Bulletin and particularly the April and July issues. Dorothy Howard,

in sending these judges the missing Bulletin. She will mail them to you cost free.

Read the minutes of the November meeting in the January issue of the AIS Bulletin. The Board met in Dallas, TX, and agreed upon some changes that will affect all of us. Because of the smaller print, a lot of us do pass up reading the minutes. We try to publish some of the highlights of the meetings in the Bulletin, but you should know the reasoning behind some of the decisions passed.

For our new members, the January and April issues of the AIS Bulletin carry advertisements of the new introductions of many commercial growers. Many are pictured in color of the new irises being introduced. Also, at our region meeting I heard some of the new members ask how to receive catalogs from these commercial gardens. In the back of each issue is the "Commercial Directory" which lists a large selection of growers. Some want a 15¢ stamp, some want 25¢ (refundable on first order) and some want \$1 (refundable on first order), while some are free for the asking. Several gardens publish beautifully colored catalogs. Becoming a member of AIS automatically produces a number of catalogs. Ask around to your fellow members what they think about a garden you are thinking about ordering irises from. Compare prices, but bargains are not always bargains. Ask about extras that a commercial garden gives from your member growers. Some give great extras, some junk, some ask for hints on extras. The trend now is to give fewer extra irises, as most gardens are cutting down because of rising operating costs.

In Rokki Rockwell's annual report concerning judges, submitted at the Dallas meeting, it was noted that 958 judges were eligible to cast ballots for iris awards (560 Garden, 313 Senior, 63 Honorary). 752 (79%) met the ballot requirements either by casting the official ballot or being excused. Eleven judges failed to cast a timely ballot for the second consecutive year and all were deleted. Two judges failed to renew their membership in AIS and four were deleted for failure to complete their required training. My own comments about the deletions are that either those judges hadn't read their Handbook and, therefore, didn't know what was required of them; they have lost interest and they didn't care; or the Judges Training Chairman wasn't informing his Region's Judges and/or a combination of any of the above. You know there is no possible way any judge can be an expert in all species of irises. Just vote for the species you're familiar with, leave some blank sections... but vote. You don't have to vote for all three, twelve or whatever, just vote for those irises you have seen growing.

Some more information from Rokki: Judges to serve the Society in 1981 are: 70 Apprentices, 482 Accredited, 346 Seniors and 66 Honorary. Present and Past RVP's that are not counted against a region's quota are: 60 Garden and 1 Apprentice; transfers 31 Garden, for an over-all count of 1056 Judges. Region 23 had three Apprentices approved: Mrs. Wilma Friedline, Mrs. Fran Merrill and Mr. George A. Nickel. CONGRATULATIONS to the three of you. Our region had one judge deleted for not casting the ballot for two consecutive years. Region 23 had an official quota of 21 Judges as of October, 1980. We have 16 Garden Judges, 1 Holdover Apprentice and 3 new Apprentices, for a total of twenty. We have a total of 16 non-quota judges, when broken down shows 4 RVP, 1 Transfer and 11 Senior Judges. Presently there are 36 Judges in the Region.

Senior Judges in the Region, but due to the amount of shows within the Region, the distance to travel to a show, even going out of the Region for Judges, we're going to have to lean on the Senior Judges to pitch in and accept a request to judge.

Tired of statistics -- well hold on just a little longer. Region 23 had 91% of our Garden Judges voting, 82% of the Senior Judges voting, for an over all 88% of all classes of judges voting. Not bad -- and we were beaten by only three other regions.

We would like to try something new in the Region starting with this issue. We would like to get inputs from our Region growers on bloom outs. A person sees this colored picture of a beautiful flower and can just picture it growing in a certain spot in their yard. Low and behold, they buy it and plant it in that spot. It increases with four or five increases which grow rapidly. In the Spring you have four or five fully developed rhizomes and fans. Pretty soon you see bloom stalks emerging from the fans. You see four or five bloom stalks. All of them bloom. Now this does not mean your plant is gone, as sometimes in late summer a few small increases show, but it takes several years to get those increases developed to bloom stage, and you go through the same cycle again. With this type of bloom out you may have a bloom stalk every three or four years. Other bloom outs completely end the life of the plant. Growers have tried everything; put a seed pod on it, use Rapid Gro, etc., and come up with nothing or a 3-year cycle. The plant isn't worth fooling with no matter how pretty the flower is. We don't know whether other growers have had the same experience with the plants listed here, so let's hear from you with your experiences as maybe somebody has a secret way of saving the rhizome. Let us have the names of your bloom outs so we can develop a list. Somebody might just send an article in to the AIS Bulletin Editor for publication. Here is a starter list:

Soft Sunset (75)	Premonition (78)
Soldiers Chorus (76)	Turbulence (76)
Starina ()	Jeanette (77)
Spinning Wheel (76)	Dainty Deb (76)
Emerald Touch ()	

AUSTIN'S LEGACY.....from Jim Mahoney

Lloyd Austin's training was as a geneticist and directed the world's first tree-breeding station, the Institute of Forest Genetics, Placerville, California. He purchased some land that bordered the Institute's property and started his Rainbow Hybridizing Gardens around 1946.

While visiting Dr. Sydney B. Mitchell's garden in Berkeley, Austin noticed a seedling that had a slight projection at the end of the beard, a mutation if you will. This occurred in May 1944 and the seedling was a ruffled plicata No. M-5-38. Dr. Mitchell did introduce this seedling as Advanced Guard in 1945. Doctor Mitchell didn't want to fool with it to develop the mutation so gave it to Lloyd Austin to use. Austin selfed it and crossed it with eight other plicata seedlings he obtained from Mitchell which had no sign of the projection of the beard.

He planted 37 seeds from his selfing of Mitchell's M-5-38 and got only one seedling with the beard projection which he called a horn and numbered No. 638. Out of the seedlings he had originally received from Dr. Mitchell and crossed he found another seedling with a slight projection which he numbered JS-M-1768. He crossed these two seedlings and planted some 296 seeds from this crossing. The years were ticking by and between 1952 and 1954 most of the seedlings from this cross bloomed. He found that the great majority had horns to some extent, varying in length from 1/16 inch to 1 1/2 inches. He numbered 56 of the resultant seedlings. From those numbered seedlings he registered and introduced five varieties.

He introduced Unicorn (1954), Mulberry Snow (1955), Plumed Delight (1955) and Wings of Flight (1957); Unicorn being the first introduced horned iris. However, there were other horned irises registered before Mr. Austin registered and introduced Unicorn.

Austin had a method of symbolizing his irises to reveal the exact nature of every selected horned seedling. His symbols are as follows:

- H = Horned, with hornlike projections at the ends of the beards.
- Hs = Spooned, with ends of the horns expanded into spoonlike decorative features.
- Hf = Flounced, with the slender needlelike horns broadened throughout their length into petal-like floral embellishments.
- T = Tall Bearded.
- Tg = Tangerine Bearded
- L = Laced

Sometimes he combined these symbols indicating an instability in the horn type iris. An example HHs meaning that the adornment could be either a horned flower or a spooned flower or a combination of both. He kept a very good set of records of his introduced irises. He rated each named variety as far as fertility is concerned which ranged from 0 to 10 for both a seed setting rating and a pollen rating. He also catalogued the number of named or numbered seedlings from the introduced parent, whether pollen or pod parent and whether it was a horned, spoon or flounced seedling. His records terminated when he died in 1963. His wife, Gladys, carried on for several years introducing his plants. Ben Hager helped her get Rainbow's catalog out for 1963.

This writer did a little research and found that a number of irises with horns were registered and some introduced using other than Austin's irises as parents. One of the parent iris used was Joseph's Mantle mostly as a pollen parent. Horns have ranged from 1/2" to 1 1/2" in length. Bert Porreca registered a seedling in 1957 called Dapper Dan and introduced it in 1959. It had a 1 1/4" horn and was out of (Weirdie x Easter Bonnet) x Joseph's Mantle. Color Galore was registered by H. Burns in 1956 out of Confetti x Joseph's Mantle and had a 1/2" horn. It was not introduced. Quetzal was registered and introduced in 1959 by Mrs. Myrtle Wolff. The parents were Royal Band x Joseph's Mantle. Craig introduced in 1955 Bearded Lady and its parents were (Joseph's Mantle x Novelty) x Heatherlands.

From time to time, others have registered irises using one of Austin's introductions as a parent. G. Rees was one that registered Fox Horn in

1963 using Horned Royalty (Austin) x Green Hope. She did not introduce it, however. Mrs. Noyd registered Horned Sunshine in 1967 using Glitter Glow x Lemon Spoon (Austin) and introduced it in 1968. Kristi Lynn was registered in 1966 using Austin's Spooned Fantom but not introduced.

As you can see, nothing much was really done after the death of Lloyd Austin in pushing the horned type iris. Folks didn't really accept this type iris, just as they didn't accept laced and ruffled irises. It took time to get used to the substance in the standards and falls, the lacing and ruffling of the newer irises. So it was with the horns, spoons and flounces. There weren't many hybridizers that tried to improve on these types of plants.

Now in the 1970's a few hybridizers started working in the area. They are working for variations in color, widening the haft, developing substance, incorporating ruffles and lace and increasing the bloom size. Mrs. Brady registered a horned iris Anniversary Waltz in 1971 and introduced it in 1972. It won an HM. Manley Osborne registered Miz Lib in 1972 and introduced it in 1974. It is a very nice plicata out of Unicorn x Rococco, has horns sometimes and spoons sometimes, and the bloom is small. In 1973, Osborne registered Space Dragon out of New Moon x Spooned Blaze and introduced it in 1974. It is a good substantiated bloom, tannish in color with a violet wash on the falls. The branching and size of flower are very good. Lavender Petticoats by Osborne out of Cloud Crest x Spooned Blaze was registered in 1973 and introduced in 1975. It has plenty of substance and hairy lavender horns. In 1975 he registered two horned irises, Moon Mistress a peach colored iris taken after its pod parent Chinese Coral and Dainty Deb a plicata. These two were introduced in 1976. I have a problem in growing Dainty Deb and have a time getting horns on Moon Mistress. Battle Star was introduced for Osborne through Cordon Bleu Farms in 1979 and is a terrific grower and has good horns. In 1980, Melrose Gardens introduced Osborne's Sky Hooks, a yellow flower with lavender horns.

Lloyd Zurbrigg registered and introduced Miss Jupiter and Miss Venus in 1975. Both of these cultivars are flounced flowers. They are siblings out of (Golden Unicorn x Crinkled Ivory) x Super Flounce. Miss Venus bloomed out on me but Miss Jupiter will pollinate anything it's put on and will pod at a bat of the eye. In 1980 Lloyd registered and introduced Spoon Time. I planted it in August and have five good increases on it but I'll have to wait until May to see what the bloom is like.

A horned Intermediate Bearded iris by Hooker Nickols was introduced in 1977. I have had it growing in my horned bed for three bloom seasons now and I haven't had a flower on it. I'm sure it doesn't like the spot I planted it and I should move it, as I have heard nothing but good reports on its blooming habits. But I'm a stubborn person and I'll just be as stubborn as it is; I'll leave it there until the little fellow decides I've beaten him and he blooms.

Henry Rowlan introduced four horned irises in 1978. They are: Space Charm, Space Angel, Tornado Cloud and Hula Moon. Of the four, Space Angel is the most consistent bloomer and fertile both ways. Space Charm and Tornado Cloud bloomed for me the first bloom season I had them planted, but neither has bloomed again. Hula Moon blooms consistently for me but does not produce any adornments. It is fertile both ways and Henry assures me it will pass on a good horned seedling.

Horny Lorie was the cover girl on Melrose's 1978 catalog. Ben Hager got a good one and it does have horns. I haven't tried to use it in crossing yet but will some day. Can you imagine a child saying my mother was Horny Lorie?

Melrose introduced Meek's Buckthorn in 1979 which has spoonlike adornments. I couldn't set a pod on it but the pollen was quite fertile. I am not going to say it is not pod fertile yet, though.

And finally, I've got to toot my own horn. I registered five seedlings in 1979. Mary O. Mahoney, named after my daughter-in-law because of the parents I used, Miz Lib x Petite Posy. It produces horns and spoons. I named a brownish horned iris, Chicago's LeRoy, after my son and the toughest man in the whole darned town. Aah Soo is a pale yellow or cream that reminds me of an Oriental complexion with nice horns. Planet Iris is a fuzzy horned lavender named after my back yard because I spend most of my free time out there. The fifth I named Sex Appeal and is a large yellow bloom with a violet wash on both standards and falls and has horns 1 1/4" to 1 1/2". Ben Hager said he'd like to grow it because he liked the name. I have no idea when I will introduce these named seedlings.

Popularity of these novelties had gotten a shot in the arm when Cordon Bleu Farms and Melrose started to introduce them into the market. The hybridizers are showing them at the National Conventions and the newer generation of iris fanciers is taking an interest in them. Luckily they haven't seen some of the old catalogs which showed the horned type irises with dog eared falls. Funny the older growers remember that but don't remember all the other tall bearded iris were dog eared also.

Lloyd Austin registered and introduced over 60 of these novel irises. Those that are interested in this type of iris usually still grow as many of his introductions as they can buy, trade or get a start of.

In his article "Controlled Evolution of the Horned, Spooned and Flounced Iris" published in the April 1961 Bulletin of the American Iris Society, he made some recommendations for improving these irises. He speaks of developing larger, more frills and lace, new colors and patterns such as blues, blacks, browns, pinks, etc. He also recommended that oncabreds and reblooms be incorporated into the breed. These recommendations are now being worked on by today's hybridizers. The present hybridizer is also working on wider hafts, better branching and bloom substance and incorporating the present physical looks of today's irises. This will take a few years to accomplish, but they are rapidly coming about.

The adornment gene is not as recessive as it once was believed. You can get the extension of the beard by using either pod or pollen parent in your crossing. You don't always hit but by good germination of the seed many will pop up. I have had much better luck by using a parent several generations removed from Austin's original introductions. You can bypass some of the longated, narrow haft falls. You can obtain much better standards which are more to our present liking.

I see a new tall bearded iris introduction and I picture in my mind that iris with a horn or a spoon on it. When the maiden bloom opens you have a surprise coming to you: either you have no adornment, or you have a spoon, a horn or maybe a flounce. I find flounces are hard to come by.

Even the AM award winners of 1979 said one of the things to anticipate in new irises that will come on the commercial iris market will be more horns and spoons. I personally hope so. Lloyd Austin has left us with a new type iris to grow and enjoy in our gardens.

- References:
1. Janaury 1980 BULLETIN of the American Iris Society,
 2. 1959 and 1969 AIS Check List,
 3. Copies of Craig's catalogs,
 4. Copies of Austin's catalogs,
 5. Austin's article referenced above in this writing.

THE PERMISSIVE IRIS PATCH

by Myrna Pollock

Those of you who are squeamish about plain talk on delicate subjects, such as sex, had better turn the page. Or flip on the tube and catch a travelogue on Channel 5 -- there'll be nothing there to offend if you don't count that gaggle of topless pygmies. Now! You, still reading bravely on -- YOU are obviously a sophisticate, quite hep to the seamier side of life through long years of pollen daubing amongst the irises -- let's close in on this hot potato -- let the chips fall where they may!

The plain fact is, folks -- how can I put it delicately? The fact is, a creeping tide of permissiveness has arrived in your iris patch. It's been sneaking up on us for years, but I guess nobody noticed its sinister progress. Now it bursts upon us in all its tinsel trappings, till even the most blameless grandmother in Cucamonga may unwittingly find herself with an X-rated iris bed!!! Who's to blame? We really can't fault the AIS -- their rules about iris naming merely specify that a name can't be already in use, and that it have no more than three words, can they? Or from what murky waters they dredge them up? Or for the funky ideas that run through their heads? Certainly not.

No, folks -- WE must take the bull by the horns. It's up to every one of us to rigorously censor our own spread, and to do what they're always telling us to do about tasteless TV offerings -- turn the stuff off before it gets into your house and cruds up your mind. The following is a helpful guideline on what to look for and how to avoid even hidden traps. It's important, I think, to try to keep the place clean enough for impressionable kiddies to romp through, and so that your visiting Aunt Hepzibah from Cut Bank won't have a conniption when she sees all the smut you're harboring under the transparent guise of growing a few flow-ers. And don't forget the neighbors -- they could call the vice squad. You'd have some tall explaining to do then!

The first thing to look out for is the obvious. I mean, if you must grow iris like DEEP THROAT (heaven forfend!) -- stash it away by itself somewhere. Put up a suitable sign plainly indicating its X-rated status so that those under 18 won't blunder in by mistake. If it also keeps out the dog, so much the better.

There are some other recent arrivals on the market that should be similarly treated. I mean, you don't want to chance HORNY LORRI in amongst the others, do you? What if you absently should plant it next to HOT LIPS? Or worse, HOT PANTS? See what I'm driving at? Some iris are just

so gross, all you can do is give 'em the isolation treatment and hope everyone will understand that it's not your fault. There's even one called FLASHER, if you can believe it -- and I needn't mention that there's absolutely no possibility of mixing such a name with any other.

Which brings me to one of the less obvious pitfalls in keeping smut out of the old iris patch. I call it "Accidental Propinquity." Now remember that phrase -- it's really the key. It means, stated simply, that two or more seemingly harmless names, when taken together, can add up to an "R" rating at least. I'll give you a few examples -- some merely risqué, while others, I fear, may bring a "BRITISH BLUSH" to your ears.

The first two I'll call "Boys will be Boys." For instance: GIRL WATCHER, DECOLLETAGE, OOHs AND AAHS, HOT PURSUIT. Or, GORGEOUS HUSSY, SINFUL PAPA, PENNY A PINCH, OH MY GOODNESS! Then there's Playboy (Oui, Penthouse, etc.) Magazine: CENTER FOLD, TENNY BIKINI, PLAY GIRL, TOPLESS PLIC, PARTY GIRL, COTTONTAIL. Carrying the same theme a bit further, we have Stag Party: MEN ONLY, TOPLESS DANCER, NINE SINNERS, FOOLISH PLEASURE, NIGHT RAIDER. Here, you'll observe that at least a redeeming social comment exists -- those nine dirty old men got their comeuppance when the cops arrived. I'd give it an "R" anyway. Then there's the Biblical: EVE'S TEMPTATION, ADAM'S FALL, MY SIN, HELL'S FIRE. Again a moral is presented, and since the setting is so eminently respectable we could perhaps let this one pass with a "PG." There's the Oriental Garden variety: HAREM GIRL, SHEIK, SILKEN DALLIANCE, TURKISH DELIGHT. Or, witness the Domestic Scenario (some might call it "CHAMBER MUSIC") -- whatever, it might go like this: PILLOW TALK, ONE MORE KISS, LIGHT MY FIRE, WHATATREAT!, GOODNIGHT IRENE. There's the Absolutely Ridiculous kind: STREAKER, BLACK BOTTOM, END PLAY. Finally, at all costs, but it just goes to show what can happen if you don't watch your P's and Q's: SPICY MISSION, BY NIGHT, NAUGHTY LADY, FOR PLEASURE, BORDELLO, INSTANT LOVE. Not much redeeming social value in that, is there?

Before I sign off -- it seems there was this AMOROUS SATYR who met MISS VENUS in a wood. "TEMPT ME, SEDUCTRESS!" he exclaimed. Then he snuck a STOLEN KISS, which aroused her BURNING DESIRE, and a STRANGE INTERLUDE followed. Meanwhile, overhead, CUPID DANCED.....

Sorry, folks, I can't finish the story. My typewriter just caught fire. COURTESY REGION 15 SPRING 1978 NEWSLETTER

The ANSWER SHEET for the "IRIS BRAIN BUSTER" will be published in the next BULLETIN, probably three months. Hope you are not fooling with it by then. There are 79 answers required to complete the "Buster." Region 23, RVP, will give the following rhizomes for mailing your completed "Buster" to him:

- 1st: All 79 answers..... Tropic Star
2nd: Next most answers..... Top Banana
3rd: Next most answers..... Panamint

In case of ties, postmark will be used to determine the winners. Submittal must be sent to RVP before next BULLETIN.

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H A G A R S O O P M A N D O L I N O N A
A N M K T I E I N O R B I T N O M E L
G R A E A G H J U D G E S C L E R K O B
E O E E R N G A R D E N J U D G E A N U
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|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Caro | 28. Helmet | 55. Coco |
| 2. Past Region 23 RVP | 29. Stockton Hybridizer | 56. Brother Hybridizer |
| 3. American Iris Society | 30. Bang | 57. Royal Halo |
| 4. Region 23 Hybridizer | 31. Lisa Ann | 58. Miss |
| 5. 1945 Dykes Winner | 32. Abu Zabad | 59. Unicorn |
| 6. Big Jim | 33. Anon | 60. Bay |
| 7. Best Show Specimen | 34. Echo | 61. Beard Iris Species |
| 8. Summer Wine | 35. Part of an Iris | 62. Old |
| 9. Celeste Azul | 36. Heel | 63. Trevi |
| 10. Show Official | 37. Quail | 64. the Loop |
| 11. Rare Wine | 38. Sheik | 65. Belle |
| 12. Gold Ring | 39. Ruth of | 66. Apron |
| 13. Bleu | 40. Genesis | 67. Empire |
| 14. Quapaw | 41. Liz | 68. Lady |
| 15. Show Worker | 42. Lee | 69. Punch |
| 16. Lovely Jan | 43. Meda | 70. Rainbow |
| 17. Albuquerque | 44. Prince | 71. Bee Bee K. |
| 18. Navajo Blanket | 45. Farmer | 72. Park |
| 19. Mandolin | 46. In Orbit | 73. Stop |
| 20. Oblique | 47. Ringo | 74. New |
| 21. San Jose Hybridizer | 48. Trill | 75. Desire |
| 22. G. Lea | 49. Dragon | 76. Dera |
| 23. Last Dance | 50. Center | 77. Maid |
| 24. Vista | 51. Igloo | 78. Wedding |
| 25. Pagan | 52. Town | 79. De Force |
| 26. Music | 53. Luau | |
| 27. Buckles | 54. Mary | |

HALO . . .

In the past few years a number of iris varieties have been introduced that have the entire flower edged with a narrow band of gold. With the introduction of the very charming Bride's Halo (Dykes Medal winner in 1978), the pattern has created enough interest that articles have been written speculating on its origin. It may have arisen as a mutation or recombination in some manner, perhaps in more than one line of breeding. Denver Mint has been suggested, but Coraband has also shown some tendencies toward this halo pattern.

It could also be just a more complete expression of the flavescens pattern. A seedling appeared in my garden with the flavescens pattern on the inner surface of the standards as well as on the upper (inner during development) surface of the falls. This seedling came from a cross between Christmas Angel and Coraband. My Jeanie C, which is a pale sea-lavender also has a gold halo and was from a cross between Denver Mint and Coraband.

COMBINATIONS . . .

In much the same way that the two pigment systems and their various colors have been combined to produce a multitude of interesting colors, the various patterns are also being combined with some striking results; flavescens and plicata, Progenitor and plicata (on both white and yellow grounds), flavescens and Progenitor, Progenitor and Pinnacle, and many others. It is the constant challenge and anticipation that keeps us driving to reach "The Impossible Dream."

... to be continued in Region 23 BULLETIN

Excerpt taken from paper by Norlan C. Henderson published in AIS Bulletin of Region 18, Fall 1980, entitled "Colors & Color Patterns In the Tall Bearded Iris."

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- Las Cruces..... Col. G. L. Seligmann
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- ANY TAKERS?
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Checks for D U E S (\$9.50 Annual: \$23.50 Triennial) may be sent direct to:

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OR ... they may be given to any of our membership chairmen for proper handling. If you need any information about the American Iris Society, consult me. I would be happy to explain what benefits are derived from membership in the A.I.S.