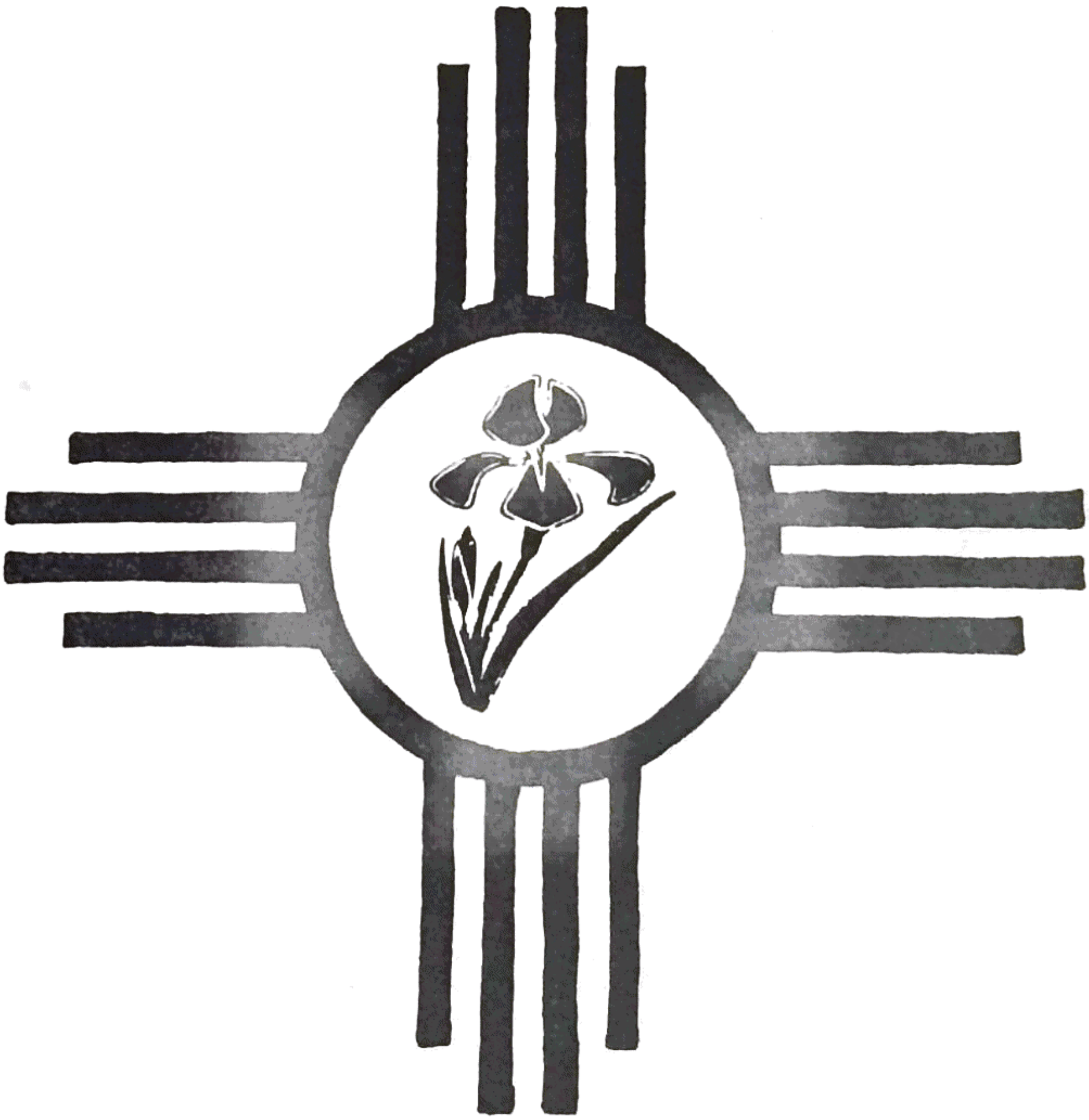
AIS REGION 23

NEWSLETTER



FALL 1986

REGION 23 OFFICERS

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT: 505: 345-0119	Howard Shockey 4611 Rio Grande Ln., N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
ASSISTANT RVP: 505: 345-7592	Susan Latimer 291 Sandia Road, N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
SECRETARY: 505: 345-0119	Irene Shockey 4611 Rio Grande Ln., N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
TREASURER: 505: 299-0687	George Nickel 9837 Mary Ellen Pl., N.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87111
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: 505: 345-0119	Howard Shockey 4611 Rio Grande Ln., N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
IMMEDIATE PAST RVP 505: 256-9454	Jim Mahoney 704 Jefferson, N.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87110

Advertising Rates Per Issue:

1/4 Page.....$ 8.00
1/2 Page.....$14.00
3/4 Page.....$19.00
Full Page.....$23.00

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RVP MESSAGE

(Swan Song)

My last days as Region 23 RVP bring mixed emotions. I reminisce of good things, and also of things not so good; of cooperation and active support, and also the absence of same; of a few good things accomplished, and a regret of things that could have been, but were not. I am pleased with our new By Laws, which provide for democratic representation of our Affiliates. I am pleased that our judges training program is now well on track--17 hours of available credits have been made available within the Region during my three year tenure, as compared to 9 hours during the previous six years. I am pleased with the number of members who are interested in becoming judges and assuming the duties and responsibilities of judgeship--we now have eight trainee applications on file. It is imperative that all of us seek new AIS members, so that our quota will allow those qualified trainees who complete their requirements to become judges. Region 23 has had it's quota reduced by three judges the last two years, because of our drop in membership. MEMBERSHIP should be the name of the game for next and all succeeding years.

I am pleased that we are beginning to develop "Esprit de Corps" as a Region and integral part of AIS; however, we do have a ways to go in this respect. I am pleased to see the office of RVP will be in the southern part of the state for the first time since becomming a Region of AIS. Hopefully, this will serve not only to emphasize that we are one single region rather than a group of widely separated and uncoordinated Affiliates, but will serve also to bring more cohesion within the Region through direct involvement by other members.

I have followed AIS policies, guidelines, and specified duties of my office--sometimes subtly, and at other times not so subtly, but always with concern and commitment for the well being of our Region and AIS.

I want to sincerely thank our many members who have been supportive and participative during my term. It takes a lot of different people with a lot of different endeavors to make things happen--you are indeed a great group!

Beginning January 1, 1987, the RVP office passes to David R. Hooten, and I ask that everyone give their full cooperation and support to him and our other new officers and appointees, so that AIS Region 23 may prosper and grow bigger and better.

In parting as RVP, I would like to leave one thought: Let us never forget nor stray from the purposes and objectives for which we exist as a society.

"HAPPY HOLIDAYS" to all!

Adios,

Howard

1986 SHOW WINNERS

Albuquerque Aril Society----No show due to AIS Convention.

Albuquerque Iris Guild----162 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Irene Shockey--20 Blues
Bronze Medal	Howard Shockey--15 Blues
Best Specimen	Country Manor
Exhibited by	Irene Shockey
Best Seedling	Howard Shockey # 81-201-38 (TB)

Youth Section

Silver Medal	Kurt Latimer--4 Blues
Bronze Medal	Shannon Latimer--3 Blues
Best Specimen	Hi Top
Exhibited by	Kurt Latimer

Lea County Iris Society----280 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Montez Bertram--23 Blues
Bronze Medal	Doug Goodnight--20 Blues
Best Specimen	Peccadillo
Exhibited by	Becky Sigman
Best Design	Jackie Williams
Artistic Sweepstakes	Elaine Bartlett

Mesilla Valley Iris Society----209 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Gene and Maggie Davis--11 Blues
Bronze Medal	Luella Danielson--8 Blues
Best Specimen	Whoop 'Em Up (BB)
Exhibited by	Cindy Myers
Best Seedling	Henry Danielson # 84-16 (AB)

New Mexico Iris Society----316 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Sara Doonan--16 Blues
Bronze Medal	Valerie White--12 Blues
Best Specimen	Song of Norway
Exhibited by	Joan Pagano
Best Seedling	Sara Doonan # 83-3-8 (TB)
Best Design	Betty Dcobock
Artistic Sweepstakes	Jean Dabney

Youth Section

Silver Medal	Kurt Latimer--7 Blues
Bronze Medal	Kelly Doonan--3 Blues
Best Specimen	Song of Norway
Exhibited by	Kurt Latimer

Roswell Iris Society----47 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Dr. Cecil Eiffert--9 Blues
Bronze Medal	Les Kilgore--5 Blues
Best Specimen	Merry Madrigal
Exhibited by	Les Kilgore
Best Design	Dorothy Cook
Artistic Sweepstakes	Dorothy Cook

Santa Fe Iris Society----154 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Betty Gonzales--7 Blues
Bronze Medal	Kate Collins--2 Blues
Best Specimen	Summer Sunshine
Exhibited by	Eric Boland (Youth Member)
Best Seedling	Carl Quadros # 80-11 (TB)
Exhibited by	Larry Anaya
Best Design	Diana DiPalma
Artistic Sweepstakes	Diana DiPalma

Youth Division

Silver Medal	Eric Boland--2 Blues
Bronze Medal	Laurel Bennet--1 Blue
Best Specimen	Summer Sunshine
Exhibited by	Eric Boland

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MISCELLANY

Region 23 was well represented at the AIS Convention in San Jose this spring. Seventeen of our members attended. First time AIS convention attendees were: Bill and Marie Brown, Hobbs; Cindy Myers, Las Cruces; Ann Wright, Hatch; Chuck and Mary Ann Zurek, Albuquerque. We saw many fine irises and a great time was had by all.

We wish to thank NMIS for the fine Judges' Training School conducted at Rancho de Fluer de Lis. Special thanks to Julian Wells and Larry Anaya for hosting the school and luncheon. Twenty-four judges and 5 trainees were in attendance. A good time was the order of the day.

Our thanks go also to the Lea County Iris Society for hosting our 1986 regional convention, which was one of the best we have had. Chairman David Hooten really did a super job. We were indeed fortunate to have Joe Ghio as speaker, J T Instructor, joke teller, iris informant, etc.--he is not able to do this very often. The convention agenda was filled with informative and varied programs. A total of 63 persons were in attendance, which included one member from Region 14, one from Region 22, and 16 from Region 17 (Texas) including their RVP, Jim Coward. Both Joe Ghio and Hooker Nichols donated a box of irises for door prizes, raffle and auction, for which we are indeed grateful. I think our auctioneer, Bill Brown, actually got hoarse! We also thank Ramona Howard and Louise Herrington of the Lubbock area who kindly presented judges' training on dwarfs and medians. You Lea County irisarians did a great job in making our stay pleasant and informative--your hospitality and friendliness were tops.

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1987 SYMPOSIUM

Region 23 Rankings

Again, only 1/3 of our members voted the 1987 AIS Symposium. It would be much more revealing if everyone would vote, but even so, I believe those who did fairly well reflected favorite irises here in New Mexico. We had 8 newcomers to the top fifteen vote getters; whereas, others fell from favor, and most shifted positions.

1987 Rank	1987 Votes	1986 Rank	Variety
1	33	2	Beverly Sills
2	29	1	Victoria Falls
3	26	4	Song of Norway
4	25	3	Laced Cotton
5	23	13	Bubbling Over
6	21	6	Stepping Out
7	20	9	Going My Way
	20	3	New Moon
8	19	7	Kilt Lilt
	19	13	Titan's Glory
9	18	15	Copper Classic
	18	14	Superstition
10	17	6	Gay Parasol
	17	10	Mary Frances
	17	5	Vanity
11	16	14	Mulled Wine
	16	--	Nordic Kiss
12	15	--	Entourage
	15	14	Joyce Terry
	15	10	Persian Berry
13	14	9	Mystique
14	13	11	Bride's Halo
	13	--	Dazzling Gold
	13	14	Dusky Dancer
	13	14	Navy Strut
	13	14	Ruffled Ballet
15	12	--	Buffy
	12	--	Lady Friend
	12	--	Leda's Lover
	12	--	Queen of Hearts
	12	12	Rancho Rose
	12	--	Son of Star

NEW RECORD

Bill Brown and Donna Hooten, both of Hobbs, obtained a total of 21 hours of judges' training credit for the reportable year ending July 31, 1986. This is indeed a record for Region 23--congratulations to you both! (Bet you were glad when iris season was over.)

The following article is taken from the Spring 1986 Newsletter of the Empire State Iris Society (Region 2).

DOWN THE BLUE RIBBON ROAD

[A Compendium of Iris Display Practices]

These practices (or possibly nonpractices) have been sifted from years of observation, bulletin reading, correspondence, and, most of all - "doing my own thing." Earlier writing by experts such as Ginnie Button, the late Harry Randall, and others will be referred to. References may be found in the 'Bibliography' found at the end of the article. Critical comment on certain recommended practices takes into account the concept that there is no one "best way" of doing anything.

Some procedures work better in a particular situation, for a particular purpose and under particular lighting conditions. And of course we ought to point out that things work (or fail to work) for a particular exhibitor, namely the present writer. What can be transferred to anyone else's particular set of circumstances is still open to much 'trial and error'!

To keep this discussion within bounds we will look mainly at: (1) selecting show blooms; (2) cutting and storing show stalks; (3) blooming specimens;(4) transporting to the show, and (5) grooming and displaying iris for show purposes.

Selecting Show Blooms

Your have probably heard some irisarian say, "I decide what stalks to take early on the morning of the show." Undoubtedly this practice has led to isolated blue ribbons at times, but it is not likely to yield many medals. Not enough stalks could possibly be selected, but, properly transported, 'catalogued' and displayed by the show deadline if we depend on this "last ditch" approach. Only when you have been thwarted by last-minute disappointments in the other considerations discussed here should the garden be entered at all on show day. Sometimes you must travel some distance (leaving perhaps a day before the show), hence careful planning and choosing are essential. Even with all this the old quote about the "best laid plans of mice and men....." clearly applies also to iris exhibiting. So what should be done in advance?

Probably the first step ought to be a reading (or re-reading) of the part of the current AIS Judges' Handbook devoted to the 'Exhibition Judging of Tall Bearded Iris.' The "Table of Point Scales' alone suggests the relative importance of a number of factors on which your 'beauties' will be judged. Just possibly, mind you, your 'beauty' may not appear quite this to the judges!

And remember that judging an iris on the show bench is not the same as judging it in the garden. Try to visualize each potential 'ribbon' winner as it is likely to appear in a container, under artifical lighting and under the 'X-ray eye' of skilled judges. It is well to remember along with the late Harry Randall, that inimitable British showman, how "impartial, critical, and even hard-hearted" judges are supposed to be.

One approach that might be used in selecting show iris would apply a technique related to psychological or medical diagnosis. Taking some of the important points that judges are supposed to look for (see again

the "Table of Point Scales') we might go through the garden eliminating from consideration bloomstalks that [illegible]ked (or were weak in) critical factors. Actually this a negative approach and if you believe in the 'power of positive thinking' it might be better to look for as many good traits as can be found in a particular variety. "Try it, you'll like it!"

There is another "trick" that sometimes bears fruit. Try using the X-ray eye of the judge (previously mentioned) applied particularly to the "frame" of the iris stalk in question. This can best be done at a time of day when the sunlight is behind which probably yet has not opened any blooms. Let the picture 'develop' in your mind - then compare it with another stalk nearby. The concern here is mostly with branching, although sturdiness, height and perhaps some other desirable qualities may also enter into the 'picture'. Gradually a 'hunch' comes over you that a particular stalk should be tagged for show purposes. Like all predictions we make there is only probability, not certainty, that the 'picture' will "develop" into the real thing.

Fig. 1 - Wide Candelabrum Branching

Our "X-ray eye" is looking for iris structure which approaches the ideal "skeleton" pictured at the left (Fig. 1). The wide candelabrum type of branching was what we hoped to see. But one words of caution, though! We're selecting our specimen for the show bench, not to grow in a clump in our garden. The purpose of branching is to avoid interference between flowers and the wide candelabrum type "does it best!"

Don't sell the modified candelabrum type short! It has superiority in a garden clump and is certainly preferable to stalks with top branching or the 'toe-in' look.

Counterclockwise,
Fig. 1, a Yes-Yes!
Fig. 2. a Maybe ?
Fig. 3 & 4, clearly NO-NO! for SHOW.

Fig. 2 - Modified Candelabrum Branching

Fig. 3 & 4 Top branching 'Toe-in' effect

Cutting and Storing Show Stalks

Should I attempt to hold back blooms so as to insure more blooms open at judging time? If you are quite "hooked" on showing iris, or if you want to try holding back an early variety for later showing, and if you have the cooperation of a friendly florist (or cold storage plant) then try refrigeration 'holding.' Harry Randall described this way in Garden Irises many years ago and won blue ribbons at two shows in England over three weeks apart with stalks from the same clump. The storage temperature is supposed to be 34 degrees, but I have never found this low a temperature available. I have used what was available at times with some degree of success. One 'Queen of Show' once resulted, but more than not results were disappointing.

A second "trick" is to "wrap" unopened buds in the garden and permit these buds to "spring" open on the morning of the show. The Golden Jubilee Yearbook of the British Iris Society has an excellent shot of Alec Howe "wrapping up" his spikes prior to the 1971 London show. Incidentally Mr. Howe won a number of awards at that show, including the Silver Medal of the AIS for his display of tall beardeds "of American raising." A "collar" of tissue paper (not Kleenex) can be placed loosely around a bud, held with a twisted pipe cleaner or Twistem and left there until the stalk reaches the show bench. It is a calculated risk as sometimes the suddenly opened bloom has either a split fall or standards which are misshapen. The final decision (to wrap or not to wrap) buds depends on how and when the stalks are to be "packed" for transporting.

If carrying space is limited or if stalks are to be "shipped" (say be air express) then buds must be kept from opening. But my own experience in doing this and other results I've observed raises a question about the practice. Besides it takes the courage, patience, and skill of a surgeon to put the 'collar and tie' on a bud.

When to cut? According to most experts the day before the show is the best time. My experience tends to second this as a general rule. If a cool, dark storage space is available (or if weather conditions threaten) cutting might come earlier, perhaps 2-3 days ahead of the show.

On the day before the show there will be a strong temptation to cut certain lovely stalks which look "just great" and have several blooms open. This happened two years running for me when I took my CREDIT CARD, just fine at home to Syracuse, only to find that it wasn't any good there. [I ought to add that I have never been sure of my "credit" in Syracuse, especially at the Onondaga Savings Bank.]

Carrying and Transporting

How long should the display stalk be? As long as you dare cut it (without damaging the rhizome), provided you can transport it at that length. We are at the mercy of our available means of transportation here. The commercial (or recreational) van, so popular with younger people has to be 'Numero Uno' in my book. It allows the most leeway for height, floor space, and loading and unloading ease. Next comes the station wagon, especially if a luggage 'well' can be opened for the longer show

stalks. If a passenger car is used by all means remove the rear seat and keep the number of blooms modest. The "carry across the lap" technique has led to blue ribbons (even 'Queens'), but at the most it more than 2-3 stalks can be handled. It is about at this point that you may wish you had become enamoured of roses than of iris.

For traveling containers I am torn between milk bottle crates (6 to 7 bottles to a crate) and packing boxes (with dividers) of wine bottles. And the union of the two - milk bottle crates and wine bottles - probably is the ultimate choice. Use a small amount of water in the bottle and with pieces of paper toweling (or similar material) wedge the stalk firmly against the bottom (and the inside rim) of the container. With these precautions iris can be transported several hundred miles with a minimum of damage. Most of the newer breed of iris has strong, resilient stalks and many almost seem to "enjoy" the ride.

Prepare yourself for the disappointment likely of damage to a stalk or two when quite a few are being carried. Loading and unloading times are the most hazardous. Suburban shopping plazas are attractive as show sites, partly because of the unloading facilities and the available shopping carts. Never carry 'em when you can roll 'em!

Now we have our potential prize-winners on the staging table. But a few more steps are needed to bring in the ribbons. Transfer the stalks to the provided containers and carefully wedge the stalk in the position which best displays its merits. Sacrifice a bit of the stalk if required to allow a straighter display. Check the grooming of leaves (remove if broken at all); and of spent blossoms (remove carefully and close the spathe. Make sure it is correctly tagged according to the show schedule, move it to the correct spot on the show bench and then recheck for grooming. A second look at how the stalk is "standing" in the container, including how it will "face" the spectators, is wise at this time. When a bloom is beginning to "go back," remove it completely. The judges are required to assess the condition of the bloom as they find it at judging time.

Epilogue

Your specimens are now all in the right place (you hope!) on the table, correctly tagged (again, you hope!), and lovingly groomed. It's almost judging time, so why not get that long-overdue cup of coffee and relax! There's nothing more that can be done. Your efforts of the last few hours - days - even weeks, will probably go down the drain as the "X-ray eye" of the judge takes over. But just maybe, mind you, a ribbon or two will be there after the judging. Whatever results you will know that you've "done you best" - have made it a better show - and that's what it's all about!

REFERENCES: Price, Molly, The Iris Book, Chapt. 15; Randall, Harry, Irises, Appendix A; Randolph, L.R.(Ed.), Garden Irises, Chapt. 30; ESIS Newsletter, issues of Nov. '55; May '56; Feb. 9; May '64.

Region 15 (Southern Calif. & Arizona) included the following article in their Fall 1986 Newsletter---one for all of us to think about.

WHO WILL JUDGE?

By Ralph Strane

Some years ago, when I attended my first judges training session, I was interested in the comments of one judge who complained that she was never called upon to judge. Since the guest speaker had just finished a talk which featured comments on the cronic shortage of judges, I was very interested in the reasons why a judge would not be used if there was such a shortage. After the session, I asked several of the experienced judges in attendance why such a situation would exist? I got the same answer from them all; "She has an alcohol problem." It doesn't take much imagination to realize that it would be risky for a show chairman to engage a judge known to have such a problem.

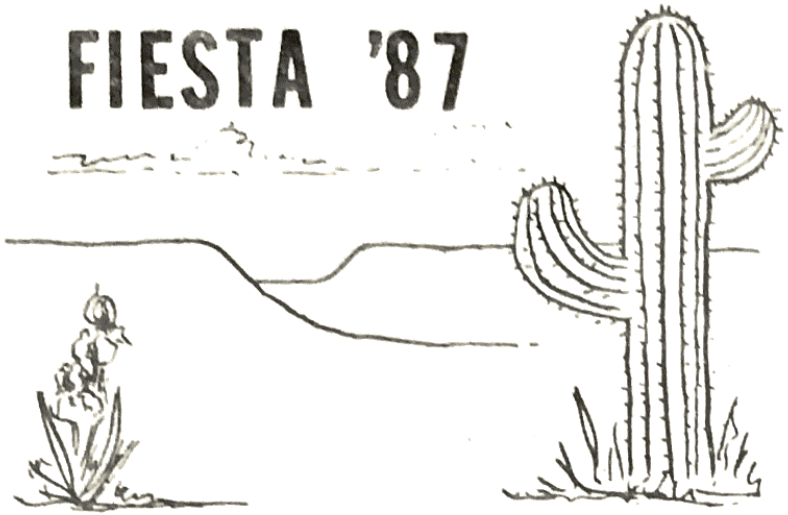
As I have grown more aquainted with the job of show chairman, I realize that there is a lot more involved in choosing judges for a show than simply their knowledge of irises. Every show chairman wants the show to run smoothly. This includes judging done fairly and efficiently, and a judge's luncheon that is pleasant for all who attend. To ensure this judges who get along well and who can work together with others are ideal.

No chairman is apt to choose a judge who gets peeved easily, who pouts or looses his or her temper. The very subjective nature of judging means that a great deal of give and take is necessary to reach a concenses on a given question. Can a judge be a part of this process without taking the discussion and its differences personally?

Unfortunately, very little is said in the judge's training classes about the actual process of working with others to judge a show. It may come as a surprise to some, but during the years it takes to gain the knowledge to become a judge and to fulfill the requirements, one is also gaining a reputation. A reputation built on activities and behavior in the local organizations and other associations with people. This reputation can not be separated from a person once he or she becomes a judge.

If you are planning on becoming a judge, stop and think how you are seen by others. Will you have a reputation that will encourage the different show chairmen to feel comfortable with you as a judge? Do you inspire confidence or apprehension? Remember, confidence is much more apt to influence a chairman's choice than the so called politics of A.I.S. organizations. Your actions build a reputation that is not easily changed by you nor overlooked by a show chairman looking for effective judges.

FIESTA '87



The 1987 annual convention of the American Iris Society, **FIESTA PHOENIX '87** will be held at the Pointe at Tapatio Cliffs Resort in Phoenix, Arizona, April 14-19,1987. Region 15 and Phoenix's Sun Country Iris Society are hosts and Bobbie Shepard is Show Chairperson.

About 2700-3000 guest irises are growing in 12 gardens, undoubtedly including the up-and-coming irises of the future, since about half are seedlings. Three mornings of the convention will be used for garden tours. Several afternoons will have a variety of meetings for the Sections, Committees, Officers and Judges Training.

The welcome reception will be a Fiesta de Mexico at the Pointe, in surroundings decorated with south of-the-border ambience where a Mexican Fiesta Buffet will be enhanced by the strolling Mariachi Band of the "Ballet Folklorico Santa Maria". Another evening highlight will be the Annual Banquet where the awards presentation will take place in the atmosphere of genial good fellowship and fine food.

A mid-day cookout will be featured at Rawhide, a re-created village of Arizona Territory vintage complete with shops, craftsmen, general store, museum and a hayride into the desert. As you can see this will be one of the American Iris Society's most unusual conventions. You won't want to miss it!

The Registrar is Vicki Day, 5244 W. Sunnyside Drive, Glendale, Arizona 85304. If you have any questions drop her a line as she is often hard to reach by phone.

FEE

$142.00 if received before February 15
$162.00 if received between February 16th and March 15th
$182.00 if received after March 16th
$100.00 for youth registration (Under age 18)

Partial registration is available only to those paying in advance; contact the Registrar for information.

THE FEE INCLUDES:

The "Fiesta Phoenix '87" reception, entertainment and buffet; The A.I.S. Annual Banquet; three lunches; transportation for three mornings of garden tours; the facilities for the various meetings; the sight-seeing trip to Rawhide; eight hours of judge's training; the Robin reception.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "A.I.S. CONVENTION" AND MAIL TO THE REGISTRAR

HOTEL INFORMATION

THE POINTE AT TAPATIO CLIFFS RESORT is located at 11111 North 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020, (602) 866-7400. It is next to the Phoenix North Mountain Park, about ten miles north of central Phoenix and 15 miles from Sky Harbor Airport. Leave Interstate 17 at Thunderbird Road, go three miles east, then ½ mile south on 7th Street (not 7th Avenue).

They have a special rate for the A.I.S. convention, $82.00 per suite plus 7.4% tax for one or two persons, add $10.00, plus tax, for each additional person above two. Included are: Breakfast Buffet (a full meal with an extensive menu), cocktails daily 4:30-6:00 PM, Parking, game room, swimming pool, sauna and tennis courts. Horseback riding, golf, hayrides, chuckwagon barbecue, transportation around Phoenix and other services are available at a nominal charge.

A registration request will be included in the "Fiesta Phoenix '87 " registration packet. Should you phone for a reservation, be sure to specify both the A.I.S. Convention and the full name of the Pointe at Tapatio Cliffs, as there are two other Pointes in the Phoenix area and all three share a common reservation desk. Reservations should be made before March 15th and a deposit covering the first night's charge will be required.

Transportation to and from Sky Harbor Airport can be arranged with the Pointe or with other services at the airport. Charges should be less than $25.00 round trip and less if a memeber of a group. Check cost in advance and compare, Particularly if considering a cab, outrageous rates periodically occure.

PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDES IN IRIS JUDGING

by Brian J. Clough, RVP
Chicago

One of three judges training sessions offered at the San Jose Convention this year was "Progressive Attitudes" conducted by Phil Williams, AIS Director, Editor of the AIS "Handbook for Judges and Show Officials" [the Handbook] and Chairman of its Revision Committee. Phil is a handsome young gentleman with light brown hair and pleasant features. He is a husband, father and florist in his town of Eagleville, Tennessee. With his serious voice, Southern accent and impeccable dress he might remind you of a Sunday school teacher. Phil is not the kind of instructor who lays down immutable rules, though he may hold some of his own, but likes to provoke and stimulate thought and make you question your own principles about judging.

Phil began by pointing out "Care has been taken to insure that the techniques of exhibition judging NOT be employed in the garden. Extending the duration of bloom in irises is a major consideration." ("Introduction" to the Handbook) There are several possible ways to extend the duration of iris bloom: a) more bud count, b) sequence of blossoms opening on the stalk, c) varieties which rebloom and/or produce additional stalks after the initial ones are spent.

Extending the duration of bloom is of international concern. The major complaint about iris is that they have a short bloom season. A letter from a Swiss member had been read by President Ron Mullin at the Welcome Banquet that expressed concern over varieties promoted by the American Society which have short bloom sseasons and are less practical for growing in areas with shorter growing seasons. The Swiss member indicated that remontants (rebloomers) ought to be given greater consideration by the American Society because of the extended season they offer.

Phil emphasized at the training session that if we are to meet this challenge, then judges might wish to re-evaluate some of their attitudes and practices. He strongly and repeatedly stressed the need for varieties with outstanding PERENNIAL QUALITIES.

In garden judging, quality varieties with extended duration of bloom should be considered as worthy as those iris which open multiple flowers per stalk and bloom out in less than two weeks. Consider, if there were a) seven buds per stalk, b) one blossom to open at a time (each lasting for three days), then a gardener could expect that variety to remain in bloom for at least 21 days. If we cast vostes for varieties that bloom for at least 21 days, then we encourage the cultivation of varieties that extend the bloom season.

(Of course, all other qualities must be superior!)

Phil asked, "What is the purpose of an iris show?" He suggested that it is not to win trophies, cause arguments, create over-zealous competition or cause members to drop out of the organization. Rather, the purpose of an iris exhibition is to expose the iris to the public and to hopefully educate and entertain them in the process. Throughout the Handbook cultural perfection is assigned 75% of the possible points and grooming is assigned the remaining 25%. Only well groomed specimens that are excellently grown should receive awards. Judges that are unfamiliar with what is typical of aparticular variety (how it looks in the garden when well grown) is not qualified to adequately evaluate specimens. Some judges tend to overexercise their talents in detecting dust, dirt and smudges. The public WILL take note of how good an iris grower the exhibitor is! Judges must evaluate show specimens according to assignment of points in the Handbook to determine if a variety is TYPICAL of its performance, below par or exceeding its typical record of performance.

Much attention was devoted to the widespread preference among judges for multiple open bloom per stalk, often referred to as a "show stalk". The Handbook does not provide that a specimen with three open blossoms should be considered more worthy than a specimen with fewer open blossoms. (Upon questioning, Phil affirmed that the Handbook does not require that the terminal blossom always be open.) All too often perfect specimens with one open blossom are derated as unworthy of a blue ribbon or "Best Specimen" award. Could this possibly encourage we iris enthusiasts to purchase and grow primarily those varieties which show poor duration of bloom time? Should this be so? If the preference for three open blossoms on a stalk extends to garden judging and the awards ballot, it is adverse to the encouragement of extending the iris bloom season. The Handbook does not implicate such preferences in exhibition judging; it does encourage extending iris bloom time in the garden.

Consider for a moment that a specimen with three open blossoms is far more likely to have imperfections than a stalk with fewer open flowers. Is it not more lilely that one of the three blossoms will show tell tale signs of aging and deterioration? Have these flaws ever been overlooked simply because the judge preferred three open blossoms?

In short, should preference be given to specimens with multiple open blossoms when it may not only be untypical, but genetically it is virtually impossible for some excellent garden varieties to open multiple blossoms per stalk?

Phil defended hybridizers who supply the gardening public with irises that they demand. The market place will determine, to a great extent, what is introduced. He further stated that there are many varieties that he would not be without, yet he will never vote and award for them. He also suggested that judges should buy and grow varieties that they are considering for higher awards, A.M. and above. He acknowledged that there were judges attending the convention who had become iris "tourists" rather than iris "growers." A suggestion followed that perhaps judges should "put their money where their votes were." Judges were cautioned to avoid the practice of voting the maximum allowable votes per catagory on the official ballot.

A lady in the audience expressed that it is financially impossible for her to buy every variety that is eligible for awards. Why should an accredited judge spend hundreds of dollars to attend conventions and not spend some money to purchase new varieties each year? It was also mentioned by another person that they were out of space. Phil asked what you would think of judges who never add any varieties to there gardens year after year and do not intend to grow the varieties they cast ballots for. If a judge would not make room and add varieties to his/her garden, why would the judge recommend it to someone else? This issue may have many pros and cons, but while debating the merits of one side or another, judges should not excuse themselves from growing and purchasing as many varieties eligible for awards as possible.

Overall, Phil's training session was not intended to institute any new rules for judging, but to question the customary practices based on the Handbook rules. Perhaps judges develop attitudes that arise from tradition. You might say that Phil played the role of devil's advocate. He did not assume that the ideas discussed would be implemented overnight. The persistent attitudes of judges may continue to be the common experience. Neither was anyone present asked to make changes in their attitudes or practices.

It could be a long time before irises with extended duration of bloom time be preferred over those that present a spectacular display of color for only a few days. It could be a long time before specimens at an iris show be less severly penalized for minor grooming infractions when they are excellently grown. It could be a long time before show specimens with fewer open blossoms win more top show awards. It could be a long time before judges cease to vote awards for irises they do not intend to purchase and grow themselves.

Attitudes are very difficult to change and equally difficult to separate from the actual Handbook regulations, especially when such attitudes are passed on without considering the basis upon which they are founded.

Both iris show exhibitors and hybridizers will be disappointed in trying to swim against any prejudices that might exist. In our organization today, both are likely to receive fewer awards! In the long run irises will continue to suffer or benefit from attitudes of judges. Only in the willingness of judges to re-evaluate their attitudes and discuss the logic behind their practices will such trends be changed. Neither Phil's two hour session nor this article about it will solve all the problems, arrive at better solutions or perpetuate better attitudes. Only time, continued study of the Handbook and honest discussion will result in "progressive attitudes."

Region 9 (Illinois) published the previous thought provoking article written by their RVP, Brian Clough.

.....

JUDGE TRAINEES

Requirements for judge trainees have been further clarified with AIS. The basic requirements are set forth in our new Judges' Handbook; however, one important aspect was obmitted in the publication. The required 10 hours of judges training must be completed during the three-year reporting period immediately preceeding recommendation for appointment as an Apprentice Judge, or placement in the Apprentice Pool should no quota vacancy be available. For instance, to be eligible for recommendation to become an Apprentice Judge beginning January 1, 1988, a traine must complete 10 hours of judges training (at duly sanctioned schools) during the period from July 31, 1984 thru July 31, 1987. July 31 is the judges training cut-off and report period for any year, and RVP recommendations are based as of this date. These are forwarded to the AIS Judges Training Chairman before the end of August, and presented before the AIS Board for consideration of approval approximately Nov. 1. Should a trainee be unable to obtain the required training hours during the three years immediately following application, he/she is not dropped or need reapply as a trainee, but remains as such until the 10-hour, 3-year requirement can be met.

1987 REGION 23 CONVENTION

The New Mexico Iris Society has extended the invitation to host our next year regional convention, which was accepted on behalf of Region 23. Preliminary information should appear in the Spring Newsletter.

The following article of human interest is taken from the Region 5 Newsletter. Region 5 consists of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

MEET THE HYBRIDIZERS

Over the past several years, I have had an opportunity to meet iris hybridizers from coast to coast as I have traveled from Boston to San Jose for six national conventions of the AIS. As I recall, the first one I met was Opal Brown in Memphis. She wanted to know how QUEEN OF HEARTS was doing for me...and I had to tell her.

It's a great experience to meet the persons who have only been names in a checklist or catalog up to that point. Almost without exception, I have found them to be among the friendliest, most helpful persons I know. They are interested in other people who grow irises, especially their irises, and their occupations vary from doctors and doctor's wives to teachers and engineers and homemakers. You sit on the same buses with them on Convention Tours and don't feel that they are "different" from you.

But you know they are different when they walk to the stage at the Awards Banquet and receive the recognition they have earned for long, hard hours of toiling in the sun and soil. Most have grown thousands of seedlings and fed them to the compost heap along the way. They have gotten up early in the morning to make crosses, experienced disappointment when seed does not set or their "children" turn out to be "dogs"! And still they keep on -- many well beyond retirement years when bones ache and weeding the irises becomes more and more of a chore.

On my recent trip to San Jose to the AIS National Convention, I was privileged to visit the gardens of nine nationally known hybridizers- Jim Gibson, John Weiler, Bryce Williamson, Bill Maryott, Keith Kappel, Joe Gatty, Joe Ghio, Ben Hager and Sid DuBose. These men, and it just happened that they were all men, are no longer just names in a book. I see them as individuals who have their own distinct personalities, but have a common interest -- the further improvements of the genus iris. In their own way they are contributing to that goal.

It's a noble ambition to want to be an iris hybridizer and we certainly need more of them in Region 5. But don't tackle the job unless you want to do it well. And don't plan to get rich growing irises -- you may be famous, but never rich!! Every time I look at my seedlings and think of all those gorgeous things we saw in CAlifornia I realized that I will never be rich or famous, but will need to be content with just growing what others have created. Fortunately, I enjoy doing that and seeing others enjoy what they see in my garden.

I strongly recommend attending National Conventions to all of you who would like to get to know iris hybridizers personally. I guarantee that you will have a better appreciation of them and their work.

Everette Lineberger

NEW MEMBERS

Mary E Albert	410 S Main	Aztec, N.M. 87410
James R Bassett	1304 Morelia St.	Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
Nancy Bloch	797 Camino de Monte Sol	Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
Aimee Castle	P O Box 812	Hatch, N.M. 87937
Angelica Chavez	409 W Buena Vista St.	Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
Dorothy Cook	2404 Cornell Dr.	Roswell, N.M. 88201
Alice M Cuthbertson	P O Box 495	Edgewood, N.M. 87015
Al J Hall	76 Road 3050	Aztec, N.M. 87410
Isabel Rigby	907 N Atkinson # 12	Roswell, N.M. 88201
Patricia Randall	758 Hood Rd., S.E.	Rio Rancho, N.M. 87124
Joe Starr	6712 Elwood Dr., N.W.	Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
Ella M Stell	2007 N Fowler	Hobbs, N,M. 88240

To you new AIS and Region 23 members, we all extend a very hearty "welcome"!

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TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS

1. Speak to people. There is nothing so nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, only 15 to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of his own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have a friend, you must be a friend.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people; you can like everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise--cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate with the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to a controversy--yours, the other side, and the right side.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

REGION 23--FINANCIAL REPORT

Sept. 10, 1986

Convention Fund			
Balance--Dec. 1, 1985		$ 604.97	
Balance--Sept. 10, 1986 (No Change)			$ 604.97
RVP Operating Fund			
Balance--Dec. 1, 1985		$1,021.92	
Less Newsletter and RVP Expenses (7/29/85 thru 7/16/86)		(576.56)	
Plus Income			
Albuquerque Iris Guild	$150.00		
Roswell Iris Society	50.00		
Total Income	200.00	200.00	
Balance--Sept. 10, 1986		645.36	645.36
Balance All Funds--Sept. 10, 1986			$1,250.33

Note: Since date of this Financial Report, our Treasurer has received:

$250.00 from Mesilla Valley Iris Society----1986 and 1987 contributions to RVP Fund.

$100.00 from NMIS----1986 contribution to RVP Fund.

Affiliates, please don't forget that your voluntary contributions serve as the only source of income to fund publication of our newsletter and cover RVP administrative costs. Make checks payable to: "Region 23--AIS".

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REGION 23 - AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
BUSINESS MEETING - SEPT. 13, 1986
HOBBS MOTOR INN, HOBBS, N. MEX.

David Ray Hooten, Convention Chairman, welcomed everone to the 10th annual Region 23 Convention, hosted by the Lea County Iris Society, at 9:30 a.m.

David Ray outlined the days schedule, then introduced Joe Ghio, our guest speaker. We were informed that the iris we had just received as door prizes were gifts from Hooker Nichols.

David Ray then introduced Howard Shockey, RVP of Region 23.

Howard introduced Regional Officers: Susan Latimer, Assistant RVP, and Irene Shockey, Secretary. Howard asked our former RVP'S Patty Clauser and James Mahoney to please stand and be recognized.

Howard called the roll of Region 23's seven affiliate societies: Albuquerque Aril Society - 9, Albuquerque Iris Guild - 9, Lea County Iris Society - 16, Mesilla Valley - 6, New Mexico Iris Society - 6, Roswell Iris Society - 5, Santa Fe Iris Society - 0, Also attending were Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lee from Portales, and Mr. & Mrs. Bill Johnson from the Carlsbad Iris Society.

A hearty welcome was extended to our many friends from Region 17. Mr. Jim Coward, RVP and fifteen other attendees from several societies in Texas. Mr. Hooker Nichols from Region 22, and once again welcomed Mr. Joe Ghio from Region 14.

Howard asked that the minutes of the 1985 Fall meeting be accepted as published in the Fall Newsletter. Approved.

Susan Latimer was asked to give the Treasurer's Report, as our Treasurer George Nickel was not present. (See Report printed elsewhere this Newsletter)

It was noted that only two affiliates contributed to the RVP Operating Fund this last year. Howard pointed out that we all knew this was the only source of income that the RVP has to carry out the his duties, and to publish and mail the Region Newsletter. He thought that perhaps some societies had just forgotten about it, some were just unable to contribute. Every little bit helps, though. He wished to suggest that in order not to forget about these things, as it is quite important - which David Ray will find out, that each affiliate review their financial position. Then at one of their fall meetings, or the very first meeting, the following year make their contribution, as much as they can, and not delay it until the end of the year. If you get in the habit of voting your contribution - if able, it will be easy and that way we can keep the RVP Operating Fund healthy.

The Treasurer's report was then accepted as read. (Please see the Treasurer's Report printed elsewhere in this Newsletter).

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Under old business: There were no alternate proposals submitted for new Regional Officers within the time structure of our By-Laws. Therefore the Nominating Committees slate of officers are duly elected, and they will assume office January 1, 1987. Howard then introduced the new Region 23 Officers: David Ray Hooten - RVP, Maxine Perkins - Assistant RVP, Donna Hooten - Secretary, and Bill Brown - Treasurer.

Howard welcomed the fact that the RVP position would be in the Southern part of the State. That it would be good for the Region as a whole. He expressed the hope that all the affiliates would support David Ray in his efforts to carry out the Regional duties and functions, and make the Region grow and prosper.

Under new business: At this time the chair normally entertains an invitation from one of the affiliate societies to host the next year's convention. No invitation was issued. If there is an invitation extended at a later date, Howard will announce it in the newsletter. If not, and an invitation is extended to David Ray, then he will announce it at the proper time.

Since there was no other new business, Howard made a few announcements.

The re-issue of the 1969 Checklist is now available, for $15.00. Check your AIS Bullentin for correct price and from whom to order.

There was some information about the AIS Convention - Fiesta Phoenix '87, April 14th thru the 19th. Complete information will be printed in the Fall Newsletter. We were urged to be sure and get our convention registrations in early, in order to take advantage of the lowest fees. If the registration is received before Feb. the 15th, the price will only be $142.00. After Feb. 16th and before Mar. 15th the fee will be $162.00, then after Mar. 16th the fee will be $182.00. The Pointe Tapatio Cliffs Resort has given us a special rate of $82.00 a day plus tax, for one or two persons per room. They also require one days deposit when you make your room reservation. (Please see complete details, from Region 15, elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Howard read the 1986 AIS Awards, all of which will be in our October AIS Bullentin.

A motion was made to adjourn, which was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Shockey - Secretary
Region 23 - AIS

REGION 23 AFFILIATES

	President
ALBUQUERQUE ARIL SOCIETY	Irene Shockey 4611 Rio Grande Ln., N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
ALBUQUERQUE IRIS GUILD	Susan Latimer 291 Sandia Road, N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
LEA COUNTY IRIS SOCIETY	Douglas J. Goodnight 1005 Gamblin Ln. Hobbs, N.M. 88240
MESILLA VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY	Maxine Perkins Box 494 Mesilla Park, N.M. 88047
NEW MEXICO IRIS SOCIETY	Sara Doonan 7428 Staghorn Dr., N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87120
ROSWELL IRIS SOCIETY	Mrs. Keith Siegfreid 2503 S. Baylor Dr. Roswell, N.M. 88201
SANTA FE IRIS SOCIETY	Margaret R. Johnson 555 Armenta St. Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

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