THE SIBERIAN IRIS

The Siberian Iris

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The President's Page

D. Steve Varner

I would like to welcome all new members to SSI and to wish all members the best year ever--with ideal bloom, and the time and good health to enjoy the beauty and fine fellowship associated with iris gardens. Plan now to visit and share the gardens of other members. Beauty is a fragile, fleeting gift. As time passes, gardeners and gardens are lost, so enjoy all those you can, that are available. The AIS conventions will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 29 through May 3, 1980; in St. Louis, Missouri in 1981, in Denver, Colorado, in 1982. Siberian guest plants are needed for Denver this year.

Our new Siberian Handbook is in its final stages. I personally want to thank Currier McEwen, Julius Wadekamper, George Waters, Peg Edwards, and all the others involved for their time and effort in this project. Also, give a big bouquet to Julius, our past president; our editor, Peg; our treasurer Gunther Stark; and Forrest McCord who has just retired as chairman of Display Gardens--James J. Foreman of Tipp City, Ohio, has graciously agreed to accept his post. The Foremans maintain one of our Display Gardens.

AIS Siberian Round Robins continue to fly, although sometimes erratically, and are a source of valuable information and an opportunity for fine friendships. Join us!

We have available the leaflet titled "An Invitation to Join the Society of Siberian Irises." Encourage your friends who enjoy Siberians or want to know more about them, to become members.

Last but not least, your society's officers request your active participation during the next three years. Communicate! Do you have questions, information, suggestions and/or ideas that would be of interest to our general membership? Convey these thoughts to our editor or myself. I hope to see you at the Siberian meeting in Tulsa.

(Let's give Steve Varner a warm welcome in his new job! Pelt him with letters of advice, inquiry, information, offers of help. Particularly the latter; I've been there myself and I know how useful help can be, especially when you are just starting in the job. - Peg)

Steve

HOW SIBERIANS GROW AND ARE GROWN IN VARIOUS NECKS OF THE WOODS: A SORT OF SYMPOSIUM

I. Guest Siberians in Oklahoma -- Burdella Rhodes

I do not have too many Siberians of my own growing here, but it is not because I do not like them or they do not grow well here. My first order of Siberians dates back to the fall of 1963 when we were living in Wichita, Kansas. I ordered eight Siberians from the Walter Marx Gardens, and six of these eight moved to Oklahoma with us in the fall of 1972. I have purchased a few more since moving down here. The Siberians seem to like this country and can take our strong winds. Nothing is prettier than seeing large clumps of Siberians in bloom, nodding their heads in the wind.

It was late in the fall of 1977 when the Siberian irises started arriving to be planted in the 1980 AIS convention guest gardens. Nine guest gardens will be on tour this spring during the convention in Tulsa.

My Siberian iris bed had been prepared ahead of time with well-rotted horse manure, peat moss, compost and gypsum all worked into the soil. The bed is in full sun. Nine guest irises, BLUE CHANTEUSE, McGarvey '77, BUTTER AND SUGAR, McEwen '77, DARK DESIRE, VARNER '74, PANSY PURPLE, McEwen '71, SPARKLE, Hager '78, STAR CLUSTER, Hager '78, STEVE, Varner '75, SUPER EGO, McGarvey '66 and #V779, Varner were planted. Each had a handful of Redi Earth scattered over their roots before they were planted in the ground.

No mulch was put around the irises the first winter, but I did keep a close watch for any heaving. None occurred even though it was a very severe winter. An azalea fertilizer was scratched in the soil in March and by May all of the clumps of irises had doubled in size. Eight of the nine bloomed that spring with SUPER EGO the only one not to bloom. Most of them had three to four bloomstalks and SPARKLE had five. It really did sparkle in the garden. BUTTER AND SUGAR looked just like the picture in "THE WORLD OF IRISES."

By midsummer it was getting dry and hot so I put a mulch of dried grass clippings around the irises, and I have kept it there ever since. During the summer BLUE CHANTEUSE seemed to be decreasing in size. The following winter was as severe or worse than the previous winter, and BLUE CHANTEUSE was still alive, but during the next summer it had completely died. It did the same thing in all of the other convention gardens. I hope to grow this beautiful light-blue self Siberian in the very near future, but I will try putting it in a more protected place. I think it can take our Oklahoma winters but not the summers.

The spring of 1979 was late and the Siberians were blooming at the same time as the TBs were at their peak bloom.

Come see us this spring and enjoy seeing Siberians growing in the other convention guest gardens other than what I have growing here.

II. Southern Siberians - Earnest Yearwood

There is a myth that you can't grow irises in the Deep South. Here in Middle Georgia we have learned that certain irises do better than others, but that all the different types will grow with limited success. In 1975, the Oconee Valley Iris Club was started by a small group of friends who all enjoyed growing irises. We all started with the tall bearded, but as time passed, some of us have begun to grow different kinds.

I have more Siberians than anyone else in our area. Presently, I am growing about 30 different varieties and one beautiful seedling. My soil is red clay base and small rocks, and takes a lot of work. I raise cows, so I have that wonderful "Black Gold" which I work into the soil in large quantities. In fact, in the last few years I have added so much black soil that you only find the red clay deep in the bottom of the bed.

Perhaps the most adverse condition we have isn't our wintertime weather; it just isn't cold enough long enough at a time! Generally, it will get cold enough to frost in November and the plants will go dormant. Then, in a few weeks, the weather will warm up, then turn cold again, then warm again. All this changing keeps the plants confused. They never seem to go completely asleep. So far, in the winter of 1979-80, we have had one real cold snap, which lasted four days, and only one night has the temperature gotten down to 20^{o} F. (It's early January as I write). For the last week we have not needed heat in the hosue because, during the day, the temperature has been near 79^{o}, and at night only in the mid-50s. This is great to save energy for the nation, but the flowers think it is spring. Traditionally, our coldest weather comes in February, and we sure need it this year.

Our temperature goes up very high in the summer, sometimes to nearly 100^{o} F. But that does not seem to bother the Siberians at all. I have learned that the best time to move my Siberians is in the spring. I try to order new plants for spring shipment also. Once the bed is prepared with the compost, then each fall I add a heavy top dressing of compost, and in the spring a handful of high-acid fertilizer--Azaleas-Camelia type--around each plant. Except for ade-

quate water throughout the growing season, that is the total story of my Siberian culture.

It takes at least two years and sometimes three years for a plant to bloom adequately. Bloom on a first-year plant is atypical and generally undersized. The second year gives some bloom, but the good bloom comes during the third bloom season and from then on. People often get tired of waiting, but for me, the reward is more than worth the wait.

The varieties that performed best for me in 1979 were RUFFLED VELVET, POLLY DODGE, EWEN, and S-75-20, a seedling from John Wood, a wine red. TYCOON, CEASAR'S BROTHER, and TUNKHANNOCK are older varieties that now are in large clumps and put on a good show each year.

Anyone coming through Milledgeville during iris season (mid-April to May 1) is invited to stop and visit. There is always time to meet new friends and talk flowers.

III. Les Siberiennes de la Louisiane - Robert Turley

I am often asked whether Siberian irises will grow in Louisiana --is it cold enough? I couldn't answer these questions myself back in 1960 before I became interested in Siberian irises.

My first contact with irises in general came at my old home place, to which my family had moved in 1955, and consequently the place where I grew up, in Center Point, Louisiana. Here *I. pseudacorus* and the old white ALBIANS grew abundantly, though we didn't know the name of either, only that they were irises. As I had no contact with individuals interested in Siberians, I had to depend largely on mail-order seed and nursery catalogs for my introduction to new plant material. One such catalog was that of Gurney's Seed and Nursery Co., in Yankton, S. Dakota. They offered Japanese, Siberian, Reblooming, Dwarf and Standard Bearded Irises. From their list in 1962 an order was placed for two reblooming bearded, two Japanese and two Siberian irises. Of the two Siberians one was CAESAR'S BROTHER, the other a white cultivar whose name, and eventually the plant was lost.

CAESAR'S BROTHER grew vigorously and bloomed profusely with dark blue flowers. The clump was eventually divided into five and they are still blooming there each spring in very large clumps. I remember coming home each year in the spring from college and seeing the old Siberians blooming and increasing in beauty with the

passing of time.

I always remembered the abundant beauty, the vigor, and the ease of culture that this Siberian displayed, and once I was out of college and apartment life, and had a bit of ground to cultivate, an order was placed for Siberians from Charles Trommer of Rehoboth, Mass. From these my interest was renewed and expanded to do some hybridizing and add some other cultivars to the garden. Through several friends in the Society for Siberian Irises and in Robins I received new cultivars to try, including the regular diploid 28s, the 40s, and tetraploids.

From the above you know by now that Siberians will grow and do very well in Louisiana. Our winter weather, like most of this country, comes from the frontal system out of Canada and the Northwest, traveling across the Plains States and through the Texas Panhandle into East Texas and Oklahoma, into Louisiana. This rush of cold air brings heavy rains ahead of the front, occasional sleet and snow, and, as the front passes through, the temperature may drop as low as 12^{o} F., with possibly a chill factor down to 0^{o} F. This low a temperature, though, is the exception and not the rule. Our January this year was very mild and cloudy; February turned cold and wet with two nights down to 20^{o} F. It was too cold to snow here, but 150 miles south of us, Lake Charles and Lafayette, saw snow flakes. We usually get a snow every three or four years of from 1 to 6 inches--I have seen it in my lifetime 6" deep, and also snow in March, but usually snow comes in January and February. March 15th is our normal last frost date.

Louisiana's average last rainfall is 52". We may receive it scattered throughout the season, or have 6 to 12" dumped on us at one time. Our summer temperatures at their hottest reach about 95^{o} F., with 85% relative humidity. Louisiana varies between a temperate and a semi-tropical climate depending on whether we are having a mild or a cold cycle, averaging between the two. It is cold enough to grow apples, pears and peaches, though red apples do not color well because of the low altitude--about 150 to 200 feet above sea level.

In this state we have steep, sandy hills, rolling hills, lowlands, and coastal marshes. Most of the soils are acid except those developed by the Red and Mississippi Rivers. The soil I grow my Siberians on is acid with a native pH of 5.5, and very poor in nutrient content.

I have tried several types of fertilizations on Siberians but have found that an application of 8-24-24 fertilizer in late February or early March is all I need use for Siberians to perform well on my

soils. They also respond well to an application of organic matter and pine straw mulch, with extra water during blooming season in April.

Siberian irises tolerate our wet winters and often-dry summers, responding to supplemental watering during the dry spells with extra growth and increases. They enjoy Louisiana's long, ten-month growing season, making large clumps in two years. From a vigorous hybridizing program, with seeds planted in July from the ripened seed pods, a healthy stand of seedlings can be obtained, with some blooming the next spring.

The Siberians have been relatively pestfree, except for cucumber and bean beetles feeding on the flowers, and these come in cycles. Some years they are heavy, others light, and some years they are entirely absent.

The Siberians are definitely at home here in Louisiana, right along with our native Louisiana irises,

COMING ATTRACTIONS - Registrations in 1978 and 1979.

I must apologize for skipping a year; I simply forgot to send for the 1978 list. There was too much happening around this house last year.

1978: Registrations

AVON (S. Varner, 1978) Sdlg. V654. SIB, 38" (96 cm), EML. Deep blue self, light blue stylearms. CAMBRIDGE X sdlg.

BELFAST (S. Varner, 1978) Sdlg. V5136. SIB, 36" (91 cm), EM. S. deep blue-purple, slightly mottled light blue; F. dark blue-purple with large area in center mottled full blue and white; light blue styles. SWANK X DREAMING SPIRES.

BERLINER RIESEN (T. Tamberg, 1978). SIB (diploid), 55" (140 cm), L. Dark violet self with white lines on hafts. *I. delavayi* x *I. clarkei* var. lilac.

BLUE BRIDGE (H. Briscoe, 1978) Sdlg. 72-31. SIB, 28" (71 cm), EM. Light blue; lighter blue stylearms and veins. BLUE CAPE X CAMBRIDGE.

BREITER START (T. Tamberg, 1978). SIB (colchicine induced, 28 chr.), 31" (80 cm), L. Mid-blue self; fertile with tetraploids. Unknown parentage.

CHRISTMAS WISH (L. Bellagamba, R., 1978) Sdlg. 276. SIB, 30" (76 cm), M. white self. From WHITE SWIRL seedlings.

DELICATE SPRAY (M. Brummitt, 1978) Sdlg. 19/7. SIB, 36" (91 cm), M. S. medium blue; F. shades of blue. WHITE SWIRL X TYCOON.

KOBALTBLAU (T. Tamberg, 1978) Sdlg. SSTT 59. SIB, 39" (100 cm), 18 chr., diploid. Cobalt blue self; light blue stylearms. CAMBRIDGE X unknown.

LILIENTHAL (T. Tamberg, 1978) SIB (28 chr. diploid), 35½-39" (90-100 cm), M. White self. WHITE SWIRL X WHITE MAGNIFICENCE.

MAGGIE LEE (L. Bellagamba, 1978) Sdlg. 275. SIB, 29" (74 cm), E. Light red-violet self with small white blaze on F. WHITE SWIRL X unknown, but probably ERIC THE RED. HC 1977. Bellagamba 1978.

MOON HOLIDAY (G. Iles, R. 1978) Sdlg. S1374A. SIB, 26" (66 cm), M. Crimped and lightly ruffled white with large lemon-yellow signal. SUPER EGO X SNOW FLARE. Bay Bloom 1978.

NIGHT BREEZE (C. Wyatt, 1978) SIB, 46" (117 cm), L. Blue-violet self. PLACID WATERS X SWANK.

PURPLE TEAL (H. Briscoe, 1978) Sdlg. 71 6A. SIB, 39" (99 cm), M. Blue-purple self; small haft markings. "Purple Teal X 68-6-A: (WHITE SWIRL X TEALWOOD).

RARE JEWEL (S. Varner, 1978) Sdlg. V5121. SIB, 25" (64 cm), ML.S. violet-wine-lilac; F. violet-wine-lilac-white; light blue styles. ILLINI CHARM X sib.

REDDY MAID (C. McEwen, 1978) Sdlg. $T_3$73/59A. SIB. (tetraploid), 30" (76 cm), EM-M. S. dark wine-red (redder than RHS 77A); F. very dark wine-red (between 77A and 74A), white blaze, green (139D) hafts; dark wine-red stylearms. EWEN X $T_1$70/119(1): POLLY DODGE x (WHITE SWIRL x ERIC THE RED). McEwen 1978.

ROSACE (B. Warburton, 1978) Sdlg. 72-9-1. SIB, 30" (76 cm), L. Ruffled violet-blue (RHS 97A), deeper below signals, shading to tip of F.; style ribs 98C. WHITE SWIRL X (WHITE SWIRL x (WHITE SWIRL x ERIC THE RED)).

SEA GATE (H. Briscoe, 1978) Sdlg. 72 204A. SIB, 32" (81 cm), M. Light blue with bright blue stylearms and veined hafts. GATINEAU X SEA SHADOWS.

SECRET PLANET (G. Iles, 1978) Sdlg. S774A. SIB, 30" (76 cm), M-L. S. mid-blue, veined deeper blue; F. mid-blue, heavily veined deeper blue, merging to deeper blue around haft, wavy; icy blue style-arms. EGO X SUPER EGO. Bay Bloom 1978.

SMOOTH SEAS (B. Tolman, 1978) Sdlg. TS 74-10. SIB, 32" (81 cm), M. Medium blue self. SEA SHADOWS X unknown. HC 1977. Tolman 1978.

TURQUOISE BEAUTY (B. Tolman, 1978) Sdlg. TS-74-5. SIB, 28-34" (71-86 cm), M. Light turquoise-blue self with brown pattern at throat. Unknown parentage. HC 1977. Tolman 1978.

VIOLET SWIRL (H. Briscoe, 1978) Sdlg. 70 48E. SIB, 19" (74 cm), LM. Dark violet self with small haft markings. WHITE SWIRL X VIOLET FLARE.

WALTER (H. Savage, 1978) Sdlg. WSE 6BL. SIB, 18-20" (46-51 cm), M. Ruffled Venetian blue (Ridgeway) self. WHITE SWIRL X EGO.
WEISSCHEN (T. Tamberg, 1978) Sdlg. SSTT 99. SIB, (28 chr. diploid), 18-20" (45-50 cm), M. White self. EGO X unknown.
WILTRUD GISSEL (T. Tamberg, 1978) SIB (28 chr. diploid), 27½" (70 cm), E. light blue self. Unknown parentage.
YELLOW CHRYS (T. Tamberg, 1978) Sdlg. SSTT 31. SIB (40 chr. diploid), 39" (100 cm), M. Light yellow self with faint darker lines on F. *I. chrysographes* sdlg SSTT 13 X Kitton light yellow sdlg.

1978: Introductions of Earlier Registrations.

ANN DASCH (S. Varner, SIB., R. 1977) Illini Iris 1978.
FINE LINE (J. Witt, CA-SIB, R. 1977) Witt 1978.
FRIENDLY WELCOME (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1977) Illini Iris 1978.
STAR CLUSTER (B. Hager, SIB, R. 1977) Melrose Gardens 1978.
STEVE VARNER (H. Briscoe, SIB, R. 1976) Bellagamba 1978.
VELVET PENNANT (J. Witt, CA-SIB, R. 1977) Witt 1978.

And an omission from the registrations (me eyes ain't so good):
LICHTERFELDE (T. Tamberg, R. 1978) Sdlg. SSTT 98. SIB (colchicine-induced, 28 chr.), 35½-39" (90-100 cm), E. Mid-blue self with white lines on F. YANKEE TRADER X unknown.

Correction of Parentage in 1979:
PURPLE TEAL (H. Briscoe, SIB. R. 1978) correct to: PURPLE MERE X (WHITE SWIRLD x TEALWOOD).

1979: Registrations.

ALTER EGO (B. Hager, 1979) Sdlg. SB81L+B1. SIB, 34" (86 cm), M. S. light blue; F. light blue blended deeper; cream signals. SUPER EGO X SWANK.
BORBELETA (J. Wadekamper, R. 1979) Sdlg. JWEx 3. SIB, 31" (78 cm), M. Dark blue self. EGO X self. EC 1978. Borbeleta Gardens 1979.
CAMBRITA (T. Tamberg, 1979) Sdlg. SSTT 94. SIB (28 chr. diploid), 16" (40 cm), M. Light blue self. CAMBRIDGE X CAMBRIDGE.
CARRIE DAWN (P. Farmer, 1979) Sdlg. 603. CA-SIB, 19" (48 cm), M. White with violet veining; full violet stylearms. From AIS species seed exchange. VALLEY BANNER X MC R1-2.
CLEE HILLS (J. Hewitt, 1979) Sdlg. S 731. SIB, 40" (100 cm), E-M. Medium violet-blue; violet-blue and turquoise stylearms. TYCOON X unknown. Seedling Commendation (BIS) 1978.

DEAR DIANNE (C. McEwen, 1979) Sdlg. $T_3$73/62(2). SIB (tetraploid), 27" (69 cm), M. S. medium dark blue-violet (RHS 89B); F. same with distinct narrow silver edge; white signal. $T_2$70/48(3): (WHITE SWIRL x VIOLET FLARE) x (BLUE BRILLIANT x unknown)) X $T_1$68/9(1): (WHITE SWIRL x POLLY DODGE). HC 1979. McEwen 1979.

FROST RIM (G. Bush, 1979) Sdlg. 76-17. SIB, 37½" (95 cm), ML. Dark blue with narrow silver edge on F. Seed exchange. Unknown parentage. Bush 1979.

GELBER KNIRPS (E. Berlin, 1979) Sdlg. 65 A-12/1. SIB, 14" (35 cm), M. S. light yellow; F. yellow. Colchicine-treated seed of *I. forrestii* of unknown origin.

GOLDEN WAVES (J. Witt, 1979) Sdlg. 78-11-XC. CAL-SIB., 24" (61 cm), VL. Lightly ruffled clear light yellow (Nickerson 5Y9/9) with darker yellow signal spot, outlined with few black freckles. Yellow 40-chr. sdlg. X lemon *innominata* sdlg.

KISMET (S. Varner, 1979) Sdlg. V704. SIB, 35"/(89), EM. Medium deep purple-red; small white signal area TEALWOOD X MARANATHA.

LAURENBUHL (E. Berlin, 1979) Sdlg. 64-Ried-Co. SIB, 24" (60 cm), M. S. mid-blue; F. dark blue-violet. CAESAR'S BROTHER X unknown.

ODE TO LOVE (S. Varner, 1979) Sdlg. V790. SIB, 32" (81 cm), EM. White self. DREAM YELLOW X AUSABLE RIVER.

OTHER WORLDS (B. Hager, 1979) Sdlg. SB73A, SIB, 40" (102 cm), ML. Light violet-lavender, deepening to blue around signal; white signal etched brown. (WHITE SWIRL x TYCOON) X (WHITE SWIRL x TYCOON).

OUTER LOOP (S. Varner, 1979) Sdlg. V586. SIB, 32" (81 cm), EM-M. Dappled bright medium blue, deeper at edges of F.; white-blue styles. MARLYA X SWANK.

SHIRLEY POPE (C. McEwen, 1979) Sdlg. 74/51(23). SIB, LM. S. red-purple (RHS 86A but more vibrant and darker); F. similar to S. with velvety texture; white signal. TEALWOOD X RUFFLED VELVET. McEwen 1979.

SIGNALS BLUE (C. McEwen, 1979) Sdlg. 74/21(31). SIB, 28" (71 cm), M. Light blue (RHS 97B) self; darker blue signal; light blue styles with 106B midribs. DEAR DELIGHT X 70/98(1): ((CAMBRIDGE X unknown) x (WHITE SWIRL x (PIROUETTE x unknown)).)

SOFT BLUE (C. McEwen, 1979) Sdlg. 72/139(6). SIB, 30" (76 cm), EE & Re. S. soft blue (RHS 92B) with lighter (92C) edging; F. soft blue (92C) base with lines of 92B radiating from signal; only white edge of signal visible; lightly ruffled. 68/78(RK-5): sib to ON AND ON X MY LOVE. McEwen 1979.

STILLES WASSER (E. Berlin, R. 1979). Sdlg. 114-A-11-1. SIB, 43" (110 cm), M. light blue self. *I. sibirica* sdlg. X probably *I. setosa*.

THESPIAN (B. Hager, 1979) Sdlg. SB65A. SIB, 30" (76 cm), M. velvety deep crimson self; gold signal. POLLY DODGE X POLLY DODGE.

WHITE ENCORE (C. McEwen, 1979) Sdlg. $T_2$75/119(7). SIB (tetraploid), 21" (53 cm), EE & Re. Ruffled white self. WELCOME RETURN X self.
WIDE WHITE (T. Tamberg, 1979) Sdlg. SSTT 74. SIB (tetraploid), 31" (80 cm), M. White self. WHITE MAGNIFICENCE X CAMBRIDGE.

1979: Introduction of Earlier Registrations.

AVON (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1978) Illini Iris 1979.
BELFAST (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1978) Illini Iris 1979.
CHRISTMAS WISH (L. Bellagamba, SIB. R. 1978) Bellagamba 1979.
LYDIA WINTER (W. McGarvey, SIB, R. 1976) McGarvey 1979.
MAGGIE SMITH (W. McGarvey, SIB, R. 1976) McGarvey 1979.
NEW WINE (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1974) Illini Iris 1979.
NIGHT BREEZE (C. Wyatt, SIB, R. 1978) Melrose Gardens 1979.
RARE JEWEL (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1978) Illini Iris 1979.
ROSACE (B. Warburton, SIB, R. 1978) Tranquil Lake, Warburton 1979.
YANDKEE DOODLE BOY (W. McGarvey, SIB, R. 1976) McGarvey 1979.

And that's the lot. 26 in 1978, 18 Siberians and three Siberian hybrids in 1979, involving altogether 18 hybridizers, some of whom are new to the list, though not always to the AIS Registration Lists. There are 35 diploid 28s, 2 of the 40s, 5 tetraploids and two colchicine-treated "question marks," 2 Cal-Sibes and one *sibirica* x ?, which indicates that our hybridizers are at the least not confining themselves to one type of Siberian.

33 different cultivars and 5 species or species varieties are listed as parents. WHITE SWIRL is at the top of the list (as usual) being mentioned 17 times in parentages--in one case it is parent, grandparent and great-grandparent of one--ROSACE! CAMBRIDGE is involved as a parent 7 times, EGO 5 times, POLLY DODGE, SWANK and TYCOON four times each. What a change from one of our earliest summaries; in March 1964 (Vol. I #7) we find 13 registrations, 6 originators; eight of the new cultivars are "parentage unknown." others have unknown fathers, and the known parents are: SNOW CREST, ERIC THE RED, WHITE EMPRESS, PINK EMPEROR, DRAGONFLY, and CAESAR. Things have improved somewhat since them.

There are some errors in the lists--not made by us (there may be a few we made, too--I usually learn to my horror, after the issue has come from the printer, that I mis-typed in a few spots, though how we managed to send out the last issue--Fall 1979--as Spring 1979... 1979...). Check the cm readings for VIOLET SWIRL 19", 74 cm, and the one right after it, WALTER at 18-20", 46-51 cm. I suspect it should read 47 cm (not 74) for VIOLET SWIRL. The error in the parentage of

PURPLE TEAL was corrected in the next List. But I find no listing for the parent given as DREAM YELLOW in the parentage of ODE TO LOVE; Steve, shouldn't it be DREAMING YELLOW?

I wonder how many of the new registrations will be among the parentages in Registration Lists 15 years from now? Will WHITE SWIRL still be Top Mama? If not, what will take its place? Will there be more of the 40-chr. types? More tetraploids? I expect so. Perhaps even a spate of crosses between tetraploids of the two types and even among their off-spring. I'm planning to be around to find out; how about you?

GOALS IN HYBRIDIZING SIBERIAN IRISES

Currier McEwen

Many months ago I told Peg Edwards that I would write an article for TSI on my particular hybridizing interests. Since then Bee Warburton has written her generous account of my efforts in her article in the Fall 1979 issue (1). This simplifies my assignment and changes its scope somewhat. Hence, in this article I will combine comments regarding hybridizing goals in general with some observations about experiences in my own garden. The order followed here is roughly that of one on Hybridizing Goals for Siberian Irises which appeared in the Bulletin of the American Iris Society in 1976 (2). In that article I discussed each of the various characteristics separately for diploids and tetraploids. That arrangement is not followed here since principles are the same.

FORM: I believe one of the most important decisions made by the Society for Siberian Irises is its judgment that all forms of Siberians are equally desirable so long as they have the normal number of segments and the total impression is one of grace, harmony and balance. Because of the impact made by WHITE SWIRL and its use in breeding, there has been a tendency for more and more of the newer introdcutions to have the round flaring form it gives its seedlings. This form is extremely attractive but so, too, are flowers or the more traditional arched, vertical and semi-flaring forms. It would be sad indeed if all Siberians should tend to look alike in form as has happened with some other flowers. Fortunately I believe one may hope that the trend to only the round flaring form is waning. Of my own introductions in 1979, for example, one was of the very round, flaring form, and the other two were of traditional type. I hope our judges will show equal interest in all attractive forms. I must add my personal opinion that, although ruffling is a charming characteristic, there is a very definite place for flowers of tailored form also.

COLOR: Blue is, of course, the predominant color one sees in Siberian gardens, but let this not blind us to the fact that there are not as yet any in true blue shades. In our garden DEAR DELIGHT comes closest but if one compares it with a blue delphinium, the need for further effort is apparent. Each year I cross the bluest I find in the seedling beds and some progress has come, but it is slow. The situation is the same for red, pink and lavender. Again, progress is being made for all, especially in the pink tones by McGarvey, but these goals, too, need hard and patient effort. Strange as it may seem in view of its very recent appearance, yellow is progressing rapidly. The cross of FLOATING ISLAND and DREAMING YELLOW that produced BUTTER AND SUGAR gave some that were more cream than yellow, but all the seedlings from BUTTER AND SUGAR with its sibs or offspring have had distinctly yellow falls, and yellow is appearing in the standards, too. I have had yellow tetraploids of deeper color than the diploids since 1972, but their form was poor. In 1979, combining rich yellow color with BUTTER AND SUGAR form two bloomed and are, I think, promising. Such lovely whites are now available that one is tempted to wonder if greater improvement is possible, but, of course, it is. My own special interest in white breeding is to develop whites with green tones. Some whites with greenish tints and with distinct green lines instead of a signal give a lovely cool effect and I am confident that light green flowers are on the way. As for new colors, orange is, I suspect, not unlikely through further work with yellow and perhaps with red. To my surprise a series of seedlings related to DEAR DIANNE, which bloomed first in 1979, showed distinct brown tones suffusing their base color of blue-violet. I found them attractive. Whether this approach will yield actual brown in time remains to be seen.

PATTERN: Pleasing blue-violets with silver edging are now numerous in our garden and several show gold edging. Thus far, however, the gold has faded to silver by the second day. For the first time, two red Siberians in 1979 showed slight but definite white or silver edging. Certainly these are avenues to follow. I believe greater effort is needed also to develop amoenas. They now exist in yellow and pinkish flowers, but I know of none in red or purple, nor any since SUMMER SKY in blue. Since they have appeared so readily in the yellow and pink classes, it seems strange to me that they remain lacking in the other colors. As to other patterns, we need more bicolors and there is always a place for flowers with sharply contrasting signals. In my beds the best example of this is SHIRLEY POPE with start white against velvety red-purple. I have been so enamored of the flowers without visible signals that I have tended to overlook the beauty of these contrasts. I mean to work harder at that. The success of Bee Warburton and Steve Varner in developing the dappled; mottled or ATOLL pattern represents another interesting new line of breeding and surely there will be others.

TEXTURE: This requires only a brief comment. I like particularly flowers of velvety texture like that of TEALWOOD, POLLY DODGE, SHIRLEY POPE and many others, but again, one wants contrast in the garden bed, and Siberians of matte texture are needed, too. Diamond dusting probably belongs under the heading of texture, yoo. It is a delightful feature, as are also the more common satiny or silky textures.

SUBSTANCE AND DURABILITY: Fortunately most of the modern Siberians of both the 28-chr. and 40-chr. groups are quite good in these features. I think, therefore, that the hybridizer need merely avoid using plants which are lacking in them. Certainly a seedling would have to be extraordinarily different, exceptionally outstanding in some feature to warrant using it as a parent if it lacked substance to maintain proper form, or wilted unduly under heat or rain.

SIZE: I believe no effort is currently desirable to increase the size of flowers over 5½ to 6" diameters now readily available in the tetraploids. On the other hand, I believe there is far too little effort being made to develop more miniatures. Starting with LITTLE WHITE which was a lucky break, I have now a number that have 2½ to 3" flowers on 8 to 10" stalks. As Bee has said in her article (1), these smallest ones of mine are on stalks perhaps an inch shorter than the foliage. She thinks that in such low ones that does not matter. However, I still would like to see the flowers at foliage level or an inch or so above. I am sure that these will come. Thus far I have many whites and blues but very few in red and none yet in purple, pink, or yellow. These are challenges to the hybridizer. LITTLE WHITE, ORIENTALIS NANA (blue) and a white Nana have all been excellent parents but I have not yet been able to understand some of the differences encountered. Crossed with some seedlings derived from LITTLE WHITE, all three have given plants 8 to 12" in height. Crossed with siblings of similar height, plants 24" tall result, although with the smaller flowers. FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES has been especially baffling. Thus far in crosses spanning three years I have obtained no plants less than 24" in height, even with such shorties as the blue and white Nanas. I suspect that FLIGHT OF BUTterflies may be a short sport of *I. sibirica* because when selfed or crossed with LITTLE WHITE it has thus far given only tall seedlings which resemble my collected specimens of *I. sibirica*.

BRANCHING, BUD COUNT AND DURATION OF BLOOM: Branching and bud count are obviously important virtues so long as the branches do not interfere with one another. Since the chief advantage of both is to provide an abundance of flowers over a long period of time, plants which lack branching and may have only three buds, but which send up a continuing succession of stalks are equally good. The ultimate advantage, of course, is seen in the rebloomers. ILLINI

ENCORE which has two or more branches and up to nine buds gives an abundance of bloom, and EARLY BLUEBIRD, of similar branching and bud count blooms about a week longer than any non-rebloomer I know. However, SOFT BLUE, WELCOME RETURN, BLUE ENCORE and WHITE ENCORE which have good branching and bud count, and also rebloom, can give six weeks or more of flowers. When all the other lovely ones are finished for the season and the rebloomers are still putting on a fine show, one cannot help being impressed with the value of this characteristic. My experience now shows that crosses of what I call preferential rebloomers (3) will give almost one hundred percent of reblooming seedlings. Thus far most are blue and white, and rebloomers in other colors and in a variety of forms are needed. LAVENDER LIGHT and DREAMING YELLOW rebloom well and in '79 two red rebloomers appeared, but much more can be accomplished, I am sure. This, I believe, is an especially interesting and promising area of hybridizing.

SEASON OF BLOOM: Anyone with an interest in Siberians who attends AIS conventions must be all too aware of the need for ones which start blooming early. In Huntsville the showing was quite good but most Siberians are a bit behind the TBs and are apt to be merely in bud at convention time. Hence, the value of Siberians which start early is apparent. Actually, this subject is related to that of rebloom because most rebloomers start their first bloom early. Thus, efforts to achieve both these objectives can be carried out together.

SUBSERIES CHRYSOGRAPHES: What has been said thus far has been concerned primarily with Siberians of the 28-chr. group and tetraploids derived from them, but of course much of this is equally applicable to those of the 40-chr. group. There are several features of particular importance, however, in the case of the latter, notable branching and the greater difficulty of growing them. Of the species of Subseries Chrysographes only *I. clarkei* and *I. delavayi* have branching and in the others there usually are only two buds at the terminal. The same is true of most of the hybrids derived from these species, but in recent years a number which branch have been introduced, as well as some, such as ECHO II, PURPLE PRINCESS and BLUE FORTY, which rebloom. There should be more with these virtues. Still more urgent is the development of cultivars which are less demanding in their growth requirements so that they can be grown with greater success in various parts of the world where they are now difficult to impossible.

WIDE CROSS HYBRIDS: In her article in the Fall 1979 issue (1), Bee Warburton commented on FORETELL and its seedlings. FORETELL is Bill McGarvey's rare, fertile hybrid from a cross of

I. forrestii and a 28-chr. Siberian. I have not succeeded in crossing it with a 40-chr. Siberian but have obtained a series of very interesting and handsome seedlings from it by selfing it and by crossing it with EGO and with RUFFLED VELVET. In 1979 successful crosses were made also with a lovely white 28-chr. seedling of McGarvey's and with BUTTER AND SUGAR. I shall wait eagerly to see these seedlings bloom. Meanwhile, I would warmly recommend try FORETELL as a parent. Thus far my seedlings derived from FORETELL have set only abortive pods but I will try them again this year. I also have enough seeds from FORETELL this year to treat with colchicine.

Surely many other wide crosses should be attempted. The lovely Cal-Sibes from crosses of 40-chr. Siberians with Pacific Coast irises (4) are an excellent example of what can be achieved. Crosses with irises of other series will require patience and persistence, but not nearly enough of these have been tried.

Finally there is the challenge of trying to introduce a characteristic which currently doesn't exist in Siberians. I will mention only one example, fragrance. Perhaps it is impossible, but that is no excuse for not trying. This year I will sniff every flower and if any have even a suggestion of fragrance, they will be prayerfully crossed.

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AN ESSAY ON THE WRITING OF IRIS ARTICLES

Marie Caillet

If you would like to get "involved" just write an article for an AIS Section Bulletin! After one I wrote was printed last year in The Siberian Iris, things began to snowball. First, Dr. McEwen wrote to find out why and how Siberians grew for me in Texas. It seems they have been a "no-no" around this Dallas area. Second, someone asked why I didn't join the Siberian Section, so I did. Now I am corresponding with and on speaking terms with some AIS members

who were previously just names in AIS Bulletins. Next came a request to list my place as a display garden for Siberians, which somewhat embarrasses me, even though the irises are growing and blooming very well for me. I am afraid someown will think I am an expert about an iris I know nothing about!

But there is a positive side to this for the Siberian Society, for I am beginning to interest some others in trying them "down South." I gave a slide show and talk on growing Louisianas in October for the Texahoma Iris Society (Northeast Texas near Oklahoma) and suggested they grow some Siberians along with the Louisianas. As a further inducement to try Siberians, I gave each member one. I don't know how many will add to this start, but I do know one member has already ordered and planted some.

Then there is our AIS President, Leon Walford, of Dallas, who is about to be a true convert after a start several years ago from my garden and after seeing those beauties at the Huntsville Convention. He is most enthusiastic, and ordered a nice collection from Dr. Ewen in the fall.

My real convert, however, is Marvin Granger, a dedicated Louisiana iris hybridizer from Lake Charles, La.--about as far south as one can go. Some Siberians from a collection he ordered many years ago from Ben Hager managed to survive in his flat, crayfish-mounded yard bordering the Calcasieu River. The identity of most is long gone, but just the fact that they survived is something, and with a little encouragement from me, Marvin ordered some more last fall. I wouldn't be surprised if he started hybridizing Siberians--and, since his Louisiana specialty is doubles, who knows?

Going back to my first statement, my involvement with Siberians has finally resulted in my moving some of my prized Louisianas to make room for the new Siberians I ordered in the fall. I guess, too, it is the reason for another article for the Siberian Iris, which is what got me into trouble in the first place. Perhaps I'll never learn.

(2¢ worth--shall we all hope Marie doesn't "learn"? After all, two good articles in three issues is what we all like to have. But could we sort of whisper that "double" is a dirty word among Siberian addicts?--at least some of them.--Peg)

SIBERIANS IN NEW ZEALAND, 1979

Lucy Delany

The New Zealand Convention this year was late enough for the Sibiricae to be flowering for us to see. Apart from the well known

older types flowering well, STEVE was the one noticed most by visitors to Frances Love's garden. Its deep blue standards and falls, with stylearms ruffled and elliptical, attracted everybody. WHITE SWIRL, RED FLARE and MOON MOTH were in some other gardens. Berry Judd's garden on a hillside of solid rock, had a pale yellow seedling of *I. forrestii*, and a most unusual mass of color that was "just a seedling!" Berry says they just "come up." I saw more that had, one a lighter blue than usual. The one was a very deep dark red with deep blue-purple in it, the flowers packed into an almost solid mass. A very worthwhile one, even if it was "just a seedling."

After the Convention, I went up to Hastings for a few days, and on a visit to the Harveys' garden I saw what I think was an even more unusual seedling--at first sight a large clump of a white 40-chr. Siberian (now known as Series Chrysographes). Closer up, it was perhaps more cream than white, with very faint blue spots and dashes. Sometimes the falls of this type are long and wavy, but in this seedling they were more rounded and even. White Sibiricas such as WHITE SWIRL, LIMEHEART and ANNIVERSARY are well known but they are the 28-chr. type. This was the first 40-chr. one I have seen, and I think, one that should be kept.

Hilmary Catton had DEWFUL and FORETELL flowering well by a pool in a rock garden, as well as others in garden beds. In my own garden, before I left for the Convention at Masterton, I had a group of seedlings from SEA SHADOWS, in many shades of lavender blue, but the best of all were some from seed from Jean Witt (75J036--Siberian hybrid, large blue-turquoise styles, WHITE SWIRL X ?TYCOON). The first to open was a deep, real turquoise blue. Next came two fairly good whites, followed by a not-so-good, just to remind me that some white Sibiricae seedlings have a habit of not opening properly. Someone told me once that this was characteristic of white seedlings. The best of all were two lovely light turquoise-blues with overlapping petals.

SALLY KERLIN is out now and has a lovely shade of blue. ORVILLE FAY is flowering well in Dorothy McLachlan's garden. Hazel Malcolm has had SWANK, EGO and FOURFOLD WHITE blooming. She gave me a flower of the latter, and looking at it with another tetraploid, a pale greyish blue seedling, it is easy to see what a different race they are.

Many of mine didn't flower this year, as I have had to reorganize the iris beds. They all look well now but took a while to settle. Perhaps next year?

POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION?

On p. 11 of the Fall 1978 issue, Vol. 4 #8, Sarah Tiffney mentioned and described an odd bug that turned up in her garden, and asked if anyone could identify it from the description. Frank Galas, in a postcard, suggested that it sounded to him like a Sphinx Moth.

AWARDS--Is a change needed?

Steve Varner

The Morgan Award for Siberians was set up to be the equivalent of an award of merit when few Siberians were introduced each year. Personally, I would like to see an additional award of Merit for Siberians. Last year 44 eligible Siberians competed for the Morgan Award. Compare this with the average number of eligible irises competing *per* A.M. for the following classifications:

Tall Bearded	22.3
Border Bearded	17.3
Intermediate Bearded	21.7
Standard Dwarf Bearded ...	29.0
Average	22.6

In addition to their each having three AMs available per year, the BBs have their Knowlton Medal, the IBs the Sass Medal, and the SDBs the Cook-Douglas Medal. On last year's ballot, the classifications AR, MBD, LA, and SP were in the same case as SIB. One Award of Merit would put Siberians on equal footing with the average of bearded irises mentioned in the table above. If you agree with this suggestion, support the idea whenever the opportunity occurs. Talk to your AIS Officers, Directors, RVPs, and especially Kenneth Waite, AIS Awards Chairman. If you don't agree, let's hear that, too.

(2¢ worth: Seems to me that if the average for the four Bearded classes is 22.6 eligibles per A.M. available, and we had 44 SIBs in the running, we might well ask for two AMs. Then the winners of AMs should follow the usual rules to compete for the Morgan; that should really be limited to one a year.

But I would go even further: why not have a TB award, on a par with the Knowlton, Cook-Douglas, Sass, and make only those irises which had won the medal in their category eligible to run for the Dykes. That was supposed to be the top award for *all* irises but it has worked out in America as a TB award. Of course it might help to get such a change made if one of the "other than Tall Bearded" irises had first cracked the barrier of the Dykes in America, but I think it should be talked up at Board meetings, at Conventions, in season and out of season. The fact is that registrations of "other

thans" is now just about equal to that of TBs--I haven't counted them but I do go through the registration list each year and mark, in the margins, the category of each registration or introduction that is not a TB; a glance at the pages shows that on many pages there are far more "other thans" while very few show a heavy preponderance of TBs. If a basis for argument is needed, I'd be willing to plod through the last three or four Registration Lists and provide the numbers. I suspect introductions would be more useful than registrations for this purpose. There are always a number of registrations that never get on the market, but anything that is introduced is at least "running for office"--qualified to start the climb to the Dykes.--Peg)

A TRIBUTE TO ORVILLE FAY

Currier McEwen

Orville Fay has received many tributes but his contributions have been so unique that he deserves still more. This one is prompted by a recent letter from his sister, Esther Fay Schmidt, to Kay and me, which told of his eighty-third birthday last October 21 and of his continuing deep interest in his favorite flowers in spite of the arthitis and other illnesses which make it no longer possible for him to work in the garden. That letter started a flood of memories of his achievements and of his great kindness to me and other beginning hybridizers.

We in the world of irises think especially of his achievements in improving tall bearded irises. He unerringly realized the importance of the contribution that tetraploidy would make and was a leader in the progress toward steadily improving irises through his early use of SNOW FLURRY and other available tetraploids. To gardeners with special interest in daylilies, he is especially renowned in the world of the Hemerocallis and while a few tetraploid daylilies had been produced prior to his entrance into that field, no one will question that the great advances and the great interest in tetraploidy in Hemerocallis since 1961 are due to him. His achievements go far beyond the winning of awards, but top honors do indeed serve as a measure of accomplishment. Orville Fay has received three Dykes Medals, for TRULY YOURS in 1953, MARY RANDALL in 1954, and RIPPLING WATERS in 1966, and four Stout Medals, for FRANCES FAY in 1964, CARTWHEELS in 1966, SATIN GLASS in 1968 and LARY TODD in 1978. This is a record unmatched by any other hybridizer; it is hard to imagine that it will ever be equalled in the future.

I have mentioned his kindness and generous help to beginners starting to hybridize, I met him first at a visit to his home out-

side Chicago in 1960. He took me to his basement to show me how he was using colchicine to convert diploid daylilies to tetraploids and gave me careful directions as to the techniques involved. Although he did not, I think, ever apply those methods to Siberian irises, he helped me in my efforts with encouragement and new details about methods over many years. Kay and I cherish our memories of the warm hospitality shown us by Orville Fay and his dear wife, Frances, on our visits to their home. I am grateful to him also for letting me name the first tetraploid Siberian after him.

"There were giants on the earth in those days"; Orville Fay stands tallest of all!

OKLAHOMA '80!

Region 22 wants to extend an invitation to the Society of Siberian Irises to attend the 1980 AIS Convention, April 29 through May 3, 1980. Headquarters will be in the Camelot Inn, I-44 and So. Peoria, Tulsa, Okla. 74105. Room rates for singles will be $32 and doubles will be $38.

Registration fee, if received by March 15 will be $62.50; between March 16 and April 15 it will be $67.50, and after April 15 it will be $75. There will be prizes given to early registrants, so mark your calendar now and get those registrations in early. Make your check payable to"1980 AIS Convention" and mail to Mrs. L. D. Stayer, 7414 E. 60th Street, Tulsa, Okla. 74245. See your January 1980 issue of the AIS Bulletin for further information.

On Wednesday, April 30 (one day only) there will be an iris show sponsored by Region 22. Entries will be received between 9 AM and 12 noon, and the show will be open to the public between 3 and 6 PM. Each exhibitor will be allowed to enter only 15 horticultural specimens and 5 seedlings. Containers will be furnished. There will be no flower arrangements at this show. Write to the Show Chairman, Mrs. Wayne Drumm, 924 N. Hester, Stillwater, Okla. 74074 for any information you may need on this show.

Nine gardens will be on tour, and many Siberians are growing in these gardens. Most of the Siberians were planted in the fall of 1977, and they have bloomed the last two springs. Please join us so we can show you the beautiful country of Oklahoma, and let you meet the very friendly people of Region 22.

GUEST SIBERIANS 1982

Please send Siberian guests to Harry Kuesel, 4 Larkdale Dr., Littleton, Colo. 80123 between April 1 and June 7, 1980 and be-

tween Sept. 7 and Oct. 30, 1980. Mark each division as to name, type (28-chr., 40-chr., tetra) height and color. Plants will be placed in the Siberian bed at Denver Botanic and where duplicates have been sent, a second plant will be put in the display gardens at Colorado Springs. All shipments will be promptly acknowledged. If plants are to be returned after the Convention, please advise Harry by June 10. Please *do not* ship between June 8 and Sept. 6 because of the possibility of the plants drying out in transit, and thereafter having trouble surviving in our mile-high sunshine with much-reduced atmospheric protection.

DELAY IN PUBLICATION DATE

Currier McEwen has requested that readers of TSI be notified of a delay in publication of the book on Siberian Irises, which he has written for SSI with great help from a committee of advisors and contributors. The manuscript has been completed for some time and it was anticipated that the book would be ready in time for the Tulsa Convention. However, too few of the color photographs available for illustrations proved to be of the quality desired. It is the Society's intention that this book will be a model of its kind and it has, therefore, been agreed to postpone printing so that color photographs of the desired quality can be taken during the 1980 season of bloom. Color slides of garden type, showing Siberians growing in perennial beds with other flowers, beside pools, and the like are especially needed. Anyone with slides of that type or of individual flowers is invited to send them to Dr. McEwen for review by the Editorial Committee. It is our particular good fortune that George Waters, Editor of Pacific Horticulture, has kindly accepted responsibility for the final editing and layout of the book and for guiding it through the press.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gunther Stark

On Hand, Checking Acct.		$395.15	Expenses:	
Dues income	$ 377.50		Bulletin, Spring	$ 244.01
Misc. income	63.50		Bulletin, Fall	221.95
Interest	265.00		Typing	64.75
East Auction, net	375.00		McEwen, printing & duplicating	150.00
Minn. & Mich. Auctions	742.75		Medallic Art Co.	637.50
Total Income	$1823.75		Cert. of Deposit	500.00
			Total Expense	$1833.21
On Hand: Certificates of Deposit			Checking Account	385.69
four (4) - $1000.00				
three (3)- $ 500.00				$2218.90

Back Talk

Peg Edwards

I have a problem and a proposal. As some of you know from experience, the present system of using third-class mail results in delays of as much as 5-6 weeks in delivery of your copy. In some cases it may never arrive. If copies are sent to an incorrect address--and this can result from an error of *one* digit in the house number or Zip Code, anywhere along the line from your mailing the dues to my addressing the copy to you--or, if you moved, even just across the street, the copy is returned to us at a cost to the Society for 25¢, plus the cost of sending a fresh copy to the new or corrected address. Current postage for 3rd class is 20¢ and if the issue runs a little heavier due to more material being available for that issue, it may run higher. At present rates it would cost us about 25¢ more per issue to send it first class in an envelope.

How many of you would be willing to pay an additional 50¢ a year to get TSI, within a week from its coming from the printer to me, in an envelope (no markings on the back, no dirt, no dogears)? If you would be willing, would you please write Steve before April 15 so that he can go to the Convention with this information at hand; and if you are against it, tell him that. If the matter is approved we can make the change in dues in time for the 1/1/81 dues date and also, by mailing first class we could enclose a dues notice instead of marking it on the outside of the copy. I have always felt that this looks a bit tacky, but writing it inside would violate P.O.rules about what constitutes 3rd class mail.

We hate to raise dues when everything on earth is going up in price, but due's don't cover the cost of publication as it is; money raised from the auctions, originally intended to be available for research, special publications, etc., is covering the balance and the total costs of running the Society: postage, stationery, phone calls etc. I know I don't blow a penny (I had a Scotch great-grandpa and New England Yankee parents, and have a tightwad streak besides) and I'm sure the other officers and chairmen are equally careful. We raised dues in 1970, and prices haven't stood still since then. Where else can you get so much for $2 a year--where could you get so much next year for $2.50? THIMK, as that crazy poster says.

Isn't it nice to go over 20 pages this time--a SPRING issue yet! My thanks to our writers--some of them new here. How about joining them?

Peg-

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