



THE SIBERIAN IRIS

Property of The Society for Siberian Irises

The Siberian Iris

Volume 5 Number 3

Spring 1981

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The President's Page

Greetings!

May 1981 be your best bloom season yet. If you added some good Siberians last year, you have added anticipation. If you are hybridizing, may this be the year you find those extra-special seedlings blooming for the first time.

I believe the SSI book, *Siberian Irises*, will be on hand for the St. Louis Convention. That is also the goal for the new AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials. One directive of its editor is fulfilled--the material for the Siberian section of the Handbook is in--and we hope it is 'concise and clear.' Julius Wadekamper continues to handle details of getting Siberian Irises to us--a desire he expressed as he retired as President, and one for which I am grateful. The other publication he is working on is a new Handbook on Judging Siberians, by Dr. William McGarvey.

I renew my request that you communicate your desires on SSI business matters. Our annual business meeting will be at St. Louis, May 12 at 9 p.m. in the Taft Room. Most comments reaching me favor adding one or more Awards of Merit for Siberians. Your individual expressions of opinion on this matter to the AIS Awards Chairman and to the officers and directors of AIS might help to change current restrictions on such awards. I feel it is only fair to base the number of awards in any year on the number of eligible irises in the various classes. Our membership, number of hybridizers, and Siberian registrations all continue to grow. The awards system should keep pace. Will you work diligently and patiently with good will to bring about a more favorable position for Siberians in the awards system? This is my goal.

The gist of established AIS Board policy regarding Awards of Merit is:

1. The number of votes for a Siberian to win an HM would have to be raised to 15;
2. A record of approximately 18 HMs awarded each year in the Siberian class would have to be established;
3. At that point, 3 Siberian Awards of Merit can be activated and the present Morgan Award raised to Medal status;
4. 25 votes would be the minimum required to win the Siberian Award of Merit (compared to a minimum of 65 votes for TBs).

Data from 1980 Awards:

86 TBs received HMs; 13 received AMs.

9 BBs received HMs; 3 received AMs.

- 15 IBs received HMs; 3 received AMs.
- 16 SDBs received HMs; 3 received AMs.
- 9 Siberians received HMs with 16 or more votes (6 had more than 25, STEVE VARNER had 125 and ANN DASCH has 115).
- 4 Siberians received 30 or more votes for the Morgan Award, our equivalent to AM; had they been eligible for 3 AMs, all would have received the award, as BUTTER AND SUGAR and MARANTHA tied with 30 votes.

Many serve your SSI in exemplary fashion, and I extend thanks to all of you. James Foreman has done a really fine job as Siberian Display Garden Chairman. He has now accepted an additional challenge. I have asked him to add to our current slide collection. I personally ask that you support him.

Auctions of Siberians continue to help our SSI financially. Plan ahead to contribute plants and to bid at these auctions. Mail bids are accepted, but it is more fun to be there in person.

Avis and I will extend you a warm welcome if you visit us after the St. Louis Convention. Weather permitting, we should have some good bloom.



HAFT MARKINGS---Jennifer Hewitt

A group of seedlings flowered for the first time in 1980. They are from a bee pod on one of Currier McEwen's fourth-generation tetraploids, and my guess is that they are mostly either tetra or chimeras, from their appearance. I hope to have the use of a microscope next summer to see whether I've guessed correctly.

All have beautifully marked hafts and signals. To me this seems to be a characteristic we ought to be careful not to lose. I think that Siberians without Haft markings and signals give a very smooth effect and the interplay of light and shade on the petals gives delicate variations in the appearance of the flower, but it would be a great shame if Siberians went the same way as TBs and lost these gorgeous decorations. One I have is imperial purple with truly gold hafts marked in black, and it looks like the most sumptuous embroidery.

A Correction from Currier McEwen: In our last issue, Currier wrote about some of the newer Siberians; he described Tamberg's WIDE WHITE as the *finest* creamy white. Somehow in the typing I wrote this as *first* creamy white. It did have precedents. My apologies--Peg.

A SHORT NOTE REGARDING SIMONET THESES I AND II
Currier McEwen

In Thesis I (1932), Simonet gives the $2n$ number of *I. sibirica* and *I. sanguinea* as 28, and that of *Ii. wilsonii*, *forestii*, *bulleyana* and *delavayi* as 40. He was one of the first to record the chromosome number of *Ii. sibirica* and *sanguinea* in 1923. In accordance with usage in 1932 he used the epithet *orientalis* for *sanguinea*, and spelled the binomials of species named after people with the first letter capitalized. He mentions that *I. sibirica* and *I. sanguinea* are often confused but can easily be distinguished by the greater height of the former and the differences in their bracts and length of flower pedicels. However, he overlooked what I believe are much more important differences, i.e., the excellent multiple branching and bud count of *I. sibirica*, and the lack of branching with only two terminal buds customary for *I. sanguinea*.

In chapter six of this thesis he notes that it is possible to cross the two species of the 28-chromosome group and also that both of these species will intercross with those of the 40-chromosome group. However, he fails to mention the ease of making the former crosses and the great difficulty of obtaining successful crosses between the 28- and 40-chromosome groups.

Thesis II, published in 1934, continues Simonet's studies of the chromosome numbers of the various species and adds observations on the size, form and pattern of the chromosomes.

In Chapter II, he reports that *I. prismatica* has an n number of 21 and a $2n$ of 42, and concludes that it is a natural polyploid form related to the 28-chromosome group of Siberians. He also notes that the *Californicae* are related to the 40-chromosome group, not only by their $2n$ of 40, but also morphologically.

He observes that the $2n$ number of 40 is common to four groups of Apogons, namely, *Sibiricae*, *Californicae*, *Foetidissimae*, *Spuriae* and *Ensata*. However, he states that only the first two are related since study of the 'chromosomic elements' of the others shows that they have "distinct karyotypes and do not appear to have the slightest link of relationship."

In Chapter IV (Karyological Races in the Iris) he mentions seeds of *I. wilsonii* sent to him from the botanic garden of Cambridge University in 1935. One single seed germinated giving a plant with pale blue flowers. It was sterile, and its $2n$ number was 34. He concluded that it was a natural hybrid of *I. wilsonii* and *I. sanguinea* (as *I. orientalis*). (This has no relationship to the cultivar introduced by McGarvey in 1972 as BLUE WILSON which has proved to be a fertile Siberian which crosses readily with

others of the 28-chromosome group but not with 40-chromosome Siberians.--C.McE.)

In Chapter V he discusses, among other topics, two successful interspecies crosses he had made, one of *I. douglasiana* X *I. sanguinea* (as *orientalis*) and the other as *I. sanguinea* X *I. setosa*. Seedlings of the latter cross had not bloomed, however, at the time the thesis was written.

In Chapter VII, in Discussion of Results, he concludes that "the species united by Dykes in the *Sibiricae* and *Californicae* groups appear very homogeneous. In each of these groups there are two similar karyotypes. the one at n eq. 14 and 21 and unites *Ii. sibirica*, *orientalis*, *tenuis* and *prismatica*; the other, at n eq. 20, groups the ten following species: *Ii. Delavayi*, *Wilsonii*, *Forrestii*, *chrysographes*, *Clarkei*, *Bulleyana*, *Douglasiana*, *Gormanii* and *tenax*. These ten species have the same idiogram." He concludes that he "proposes to keep under the name of *Sibiricae* the four species belonging to the series 14, and to call the species belonging to the 20 series 'Chrysographes' group.

(Note: in this proposal Simonet was ahead of his time in separating the Siberians with 28 chromosomes from those with 40, but he confused the issue by including in both groups species which have subsequently been placed in other series. The current classification of Lenz (1976) limits series *Sibiricae* to *Ii. sibirica* and *sanguinea* with 2n eq. 28, and to *Ii. chrysographes*, *delavayi*, *wilsonii*, *forrestii*, *clarkei*, *bulleyana*, *dykesii* and *phragmetitorum* with 2n eq. 40. He has followed Simonet's lead in separating the 28- and 40-chromosome species, but places them in two subseries, i.e., subseries *Sibiricae* and subseries *Chrysographes*, within series *Sibiricae*...McE.)

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Translator's Note on the Simonet Theses.

The two Simonet Theses have been basic references in all work on Iris chromosomes that has been carried out since they were written. Some of Dr. Simonet's conclusions have since been found wanting, but the chromosome studies themselves were of primary importance, and it has always seemed to me absurd that no English translation of these papers was available for study. In any case, it was fun doing it, and the Median Iris Society generously agreed to having the translation printed, which proved more expensive than anticipated. Copies are available from MIS Press, 2 Warburton Lane, Westboro, MA 01581, for \$4. each, \$8. for both. Some translations of Dr. Simonet's later work have been available in the iris underground, but might take some digging to find out. Some were translated by Paul Cook. Simonet's

later work largely concerned amphidiploids of various construction, dwarfs or arilbreds. It was regrettable that his untimely death cut off his further investigations, in some of which he was joined by Dr. Peter Werckmeister.--B. A. Warburton.

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COMMENTS FROM ENGLAND

Jennifer Hewitt

Remontants and others: Two plants which bloomed for the first time here in 1980 were BUTTER AND SUGAR and DEAR DELIGHT. Both of them got a lot of attention, not just because it was the first time, but also because they gave me such a lot to look at. I loved BUTTER AND SUGAR for its non-fading color which is so exciting to see, but looking closely at it revealed beautiful veining on the standards, lemon yellow on the creamy-white ground, and a lovely shade of greenish lemon at the hafts of the falls. To me this is a beautiful flower quite apart from being an advance toward a deeper and more lasting yellow. DEAR DELIGHT is an iris which is full of character, which can't be said of all Siberians. Why is it that one cultivar has it and another doesn't? It seems to be a combination of color, form, poise and an indefinable something else that can't be conveyed by a description.

OUTSET also bloomed for the first time and I liked its richness and contrast. LAVENDER LIGHT has a different shape from most and is another with character; technically, it didn't rebloom as the last stalk appeared just before the first lot finished, but nevertheless, it gave a long period on a few stalks and to me this is a promise of even better. *The* remontant here is Mrs. Brummitt's VIOLET REPEAT, which is the most reliable one of all; it also bloomed twice a year in each of the past 6 years and once, in the long mild autumn of 1978, continued putting up spikes for 10 weeks and everything except the very last bud produced a lovely flower. I had good reports of it from other English gardens and am only sorry that it doesn't seem to do so well on the other side of the Atlantic. Another 28-chromosome cultivar bloomed this autumn but I don't know what it is. The Chairman of our Remontant group saw it in bloom in September in a garden near his home and begged a piece of it, and gave it to me. It is a small-flowered deep purple-blue with violet on the styles and a white signal veined with blue on long pedicels. If anyone can make a guess at its identity, I'd be glad to hear!

The other remontant which has been a big success in 1980 has been Jean Witt's ECHO TWO. It has taken a bit to settle down and didn't begin to bloom until early August--but then it went on and on with only a couple of very brief pauses until the first week of

November. When a hard frost finished it off, an unopened bud and another spike which wasn't quite showing color demonstrated that it would have gone on even longer, given the chance.

The Forties are Terrific: ...40-chromosome Siberians, I mean! In England they grow very well indeed everywhere, as far as I know. We do not usually get enough cold to worry them, though I've found some named cultivars need protection in my cold garden for the first winter or two, until they are established. Tiny seedlings can need some help too, but I have a cold frame--only loose bricks and a glazed cover--and they are pricked out there and then transplanted the following year. The second move doesn't seem to bother them much and they grow away well. It is usually four years to the first bloom; the garden is 1,000 feet above sea level and faces northeast, on a heavy clay soil, and everything happens rather slowly, but the frame seems to be making a big difference and bloom should come along at least 12 months earlier. Growing from seed gives interesting results; the label on the packet may bear no relation to what is inside...so I don't expect true species but enjoy what I get. Some *I. chrysographes* hybrids have pretty striped falls in bright purple on a ground color, or are a vivid deep violet with a central gold stripe, or an even more vivid purple which almost glows and has no markings except for a deeper spot on the falls, and one is a buff-yellow with black speckles and lines. These are all about 15-18" tall; seed labeled 'Yellow hybrids' gave much taller plants, some with branching, and bigger flowers in all shades of purple, violet and yellow blended, streaked and mottled together. From the shape I think there might have been an *I. delavayi* somewhere around when the bees were busy. At the other end of the scale are some yellow ones which have *I. forrestii* flowers on stems about 9-12" tall, with foliage which is usually shorter than the flowers until after blooming is finished--it grows longer then, but they are ideal for the edge of the bed.

You have your problems, I have mine: Reading TSI and noticing the various bugs, borers, etc. that you have, I'm glad I garden where Siberians don't seem to have too many troubles--even Botrytis hasn't afflicted them in England as far as I know though it is frequently seen on other plants. What I, and at least one other grower here, get is a caterpillar which shins up the stems and chews through them about 2" below the bud, usually before it shows color. At least I think this is what it does--I haven't caught one on its way up though several have been found in the act of chewing; but it has just occurred to me to wonder whether it starts off inside the stem? Could it hatch there? I'm no entomologist; I can't find a butterfly caterpillar that looks like this--starts green and later goes buff-brown--and wonder if it might be that of a moth? It chews a neat hole on one side of the stem, but quite a large one,

so that the bud falls over. Sometimes the hole extends right round to the other side of the stem. This is what made me think it might start off inside rather than outside. Can anyone help with identification and what to do about it? Whatever it is, it has excellent taste. None of the older cultivars are to its liking if there is a tasty tetraploid or some new purchase about to bloom for the first time, and new seedlings are very nearly as good. The only consolation is that there aren't all that many caterpillars yet.

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NOTICE TO HYBRIDIZERS

The Guest Iris Chairman for the 1984 Convention is:

Mrs. George F. Lankow
725 20th Avenue West
Kirkland, WA 98033

She requests that all guest Siberians be sent to her *this year*. This will be the best insurance that the clumps will be sizeable and well settled in.

Please send 1 to 4 plants of a variety. Be sure to label *each* clump, and include your name, address, including Zip, and your phone number including the area code. If you want your plants returned bear in mind that you must reimburse the Guest Iris Committee for the postage.

(Comment: as an ex-Guest Iris Chairman I would recommend that you write a letter to the Chairman listing each cultivar or seedling you are sending, the number of divisions of it you are sending, and below your signature repeat your full phone number. Mail this at the same time you send your plants. The experienced hybridizers know this but the beginner who is venturing to ship off his first precious babies may not: **MAKE VERY SURE YOU HAVE YOUR PLANTS INSPECTED BY YOUR STATE AGRICULTURAL DEPT. GET A LABEL FROM THEM.** There is sure to be a County Agent within reasonable distance of you and he can be very helpful in advising you about packaging as well as checking out your plants so they can pass through any State Disease and Insect Control Station. An inspection label is required in most states. If you live outside the USA write to the Guest Chairman and ask what the U.S. laws about importation of plants would be and what papers you will need to include with them. Failure to do your homework, whether to cross state lines or to 'export' your plants, might result in their being returned to you for inspection, etc. and you might wind up with a batch of nearly dead plants! I made this mistake once; believe me, once was enough to cure me!)

BUILDING A DISPLAY GARDEN

Patricia Randall

The Trails West Iris Society, a member group of Region 21, which was first organized in 1979 in Nebraska, has undertaken a very interesting job. They are setting up a joint display garden to exhibit to the general public, in a space 25' x 250', as many kinds of irises as can be grown in their area.

Our Committee met in the spring of 1980 with the director of the Panhandle Station of the University of Nebraska where the garden is to be set up, and authorization was given to proceed with our plans. The Executive and Display Garden Boards selected a formal design which I had submitted, and a scale diagram was prepared by Rena and Melvin Maxwell. There is a central Japanese bed over which there will be a lattice canopy. Raised beds will accommodate the MDB and SCB irises, at both ends of the garden. There will be birdbaths and sculptures to emphasize the formal nature of the garden, and several benches at suitable intervals.

The planting will include MDB, SDB, MTB, IB, BB, AB, TB, Japanese, Siberian, Spuria, Dutch bulbous irises, Remontants, novelties, and a few pure Arils, and a Granny's garden, a planting of a few old varieties, for purposes of comparison. Low-growing, spreading annuals will be used to carry on the color and form of the beds after irises are through blooming, and there will be one area for experimenting with types of irises not usually thought of in connection with the Nebraska climate.

Construction is beginning this spring (1980) and we hope to have it completed by Spring 1981. If it is, we will be able to start planting in July-August 1981. Our Display Garden Chairperson, Lila Hubbard, obtained cost estimates for the two types of construction that had been suggested, and it was decided to use rock paths rather than concrete walks. Monthly fundraising activities have been scheduled to meet the construction costs.

All care of the garden, except for watering, will be the responsibility of our members. We will be responsible, too, for fundraising, for assisting with the construction, preparing, planting and tending the garden. As we hold our meetings at the Station we can easily keep an eye on it and know when it is time to plant, or weed, or divide.

We will, of course, be most appreciative of any donations pledged by our readers, and would welcome suggestions. I can hardly wait for Spring 1981.

(Note: wish we had space to include the plans for the garden!--ME.)



KATHERINE COGSWELL McEWEN

An Obituary

Kay McEwen died November 4, 1980, in a tragic automobile accident. She and Currier were on their last visit to Aroostock Co. in Maine for the year; they had in 1977 started clinics in rheumatology in Ft. Kent and Caribou which they visited once a month except in the depth of winter.

They had left Ft. Kent and were starting the trip to Caribou when they were struck by a car traveling at great speed, which apparently went out of control and crossed into the

McEwen's lane. It demolished the side of the car where Kay was sitting. She died without regaining consciousness. Currier was injured, but not seriously.

Kay was born in Killington, Conn., in 1902. She graduated from Smith College in 1925, worked for a while in a private school for emotionally disturbed children, then went to R. H. Macy in New York as a Personnel interviewer; at this time Currier was interning at Bellevue Hospital, and they renewed their acquaintance. They married in 1930. After the marriage she studied remedial reading and worked in this field until the McEwen's moved to Maine in 1970. She was a Board Member of International House for 33 years, and when Henry Stimson became Secretary of War early in World War II, Kay took his place as Chairman of the Board.

She was a great help to Currier in his hybridizing, and loved to dig and weed at his side until her arthritis made this too painful. She kept the records of his crosses, sent out the annual price lists, and shipped off the plants that were ordered.

Everyone who met her, at the many meetings she attended with Currier--whether iris, daylily or the many medical (mainly arthritis) conferences, loved her gentle manner and quiet wit. Perhaps Bill McGarvey says it best when he says: "A dear and lovely woman has died, and those of us who continue to live mourn her loss."

(Compiled from notes by Currier McEwen and William McGarvey.)

Back Issues Still Available

Note that some issues are no longer available in the original format but we do have some Xerox copies. These are indicated as (#3); they are not exactly easy to read, having been made with the last available copy of the original issue spread open over the machine--the center part has a sort of pompadour effect! Numbers not listed are all gone.

- Vol. I. 2- 7; 3- 14 (#3); 4- 10; 5- (#3); 6- 1; 7- 39.
 Vol. II. 1- (#3); 2- (#2); 4- (#3); 5- 13 (#3); 6- 14 (#3); 7- (#3);
 8- (#4); 9- 10 (#7); 10- 19.
 Vol. III. 1- 34; 2- 104; 3- 25; 4- 19; 5- 38; 6- 16; 7- 46; 8- 27;
 9- 14; 10- 28.
 Vol. VI. 1- 53; 2- 80; 3- 27; 4- 40; 5- 5; 6- 16; 7- 73; 8- 34;
 9- 22; 10- 17.
 Vol. V. 1- 32; 2- 70.
 Judging Standards- 33; Check List- 244.

Prices: Vols. 1 and 2 are \$1.50 each issue; later Vols. \$1 each issue; Check List \$2.75; Judging Standards \$1. They are available from the Publications Office. See Bottom of p. 1.

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Corrections: Our thanks to Steve Varner who spotted these in the last issue:

- P. 2, Nominating Committee- Mr. Julius Wadekamper, not Mrs.
 P. 7, Mr. Varner's phone number is 762-3446, not 792.
 P. 12, near top. SUPER EGO, not SPIDER EGO.
 P. 17, Janes Ennenga, not Ennerga; Ruth Wilder, not Miller.
 P. 18, REDDY MAID, not RED MAID.
 P. 19--an omission in the article about the Ira Wood Medal. SSI paid half the costs of casting the medals, I am told.
 This should have been mentioned.

Our sincere apologies for these boo-boos. All I can say in extenuation is that sometimes my hands don't do what my brain tells them to. And sometimes my brain tells fibs because my eyes miss a morsel. I'm afraid age is creeping up on me. Or is it galloping? ME

* * * * *

Jacques Dore, of Repentigny, Que., writes that Leon Wolford has made arrangements for a Test Garden for Louisianas to be established at the Montreal Botanical Garden. He also mentions that their planting of Siberians could well be updated, and hopes that SSI will try to make a similar arrangement with the Botanical Garden so that some of the newer Siberians can be displayed for the public to become acquainted with. Since Canada was the origin of so many older ones it should see the best of their descendants!

SIBERIAN IRISES AT THE DENVER CONVENTION

Harry B. Kuesel

The Denver Botanic Garden began growing Siberian irises in 1972. Since then we have received plants for the display beds from Currier McEwen, Bill McGarvey, Bee Warburton, Ben Hager, Larry Harder, Louise Bellagamba, Steve Varner, Cloyd Sensenbach, Jayne Ritchie, Rosabelle Van Valkenburgh, Harley Briscoe, Forrest McCord, Joe Ghio, Julius Wadekamper, Carl Wyatt, Sid DuBose, Jim Ennenga and Mrs. Ron Miller. We also have some of the English introductions of P.J. Hutchinson, Maurice Kitton and Marjorie Brummitt, and a few species.

First let me describe the basic planting of Siberians. The oldest variety in the collection is ACUTA, collected by Willdenow in 1813. This is a dwarf in a medium blue. Marjorie Brummitt's ANNIVERSARY makes a lovely white clump, and her British Dykes winner CAMBRIDGE in light blue is not far behind. Bee Warburton's ATOLL, in dappled tones of light to violet blue is nearby. One of the earliest to bloom is BLUE SONG which has excellent branching and good bud count. Currier McEwen's tall, stately dark violet-blue BLUE PENNANT is a fine tetraploid here. Spofford's BRIGHT SHADOW in purple and white, and Wiswell's CARRIE LEE, a rose bitone, give excellent contrast. Fred Cassebeer's CLEAR POND, a methyl violet self, also grows well. Kellogg's COOL SPRING, a light blue Morgan winner in 1966, is another one to look for. FOUR-FOLD WHITE, McEwen's propeller-shaped tet, is one of the most vigorous. Forrest McCord's GRAND JUNCTION and HALCYON SEAS, Morgan winners in 1974 and 1975, are well established. Steve Varner's many-budded ILLINI ENCORE in light violet grows well, too. Bill McGarvey's ruffled pale blue, JEWEL OF HAPPINESS, is a good one that is often overlooked. Johnnye Rich's nice milk white, LIGHTS OF PARIS, and Mrs. Brummitt's LIMEHEART in white with a green haft offer a clear contrast. LITTLE WHITE, the 18" variety from McEwen, is fine for the front of the border. Cleveland's LLEWELLYN is one of our tallest blues. McEwen's rich violet-blue MARILYN HOLMES is around 27"; Gersdorff's MOUNTAIN LAKE, with flowers of mid-blue, is a bit taller.

The McEwen NAVY BRASS, a real navy blue tetraploid with a bright gold blaze, is well named. His ORVILLE FAY is another tetraploid in lighter blue which has a long bloom season. Possibly the best tetraploid bloomer in this collection is McEwen's PEG EDWARDS--this is a violet-blue lightening in the center and has a nice white blaze. Cassebeer's flaring blue bitone, PIROUETTE, which won the Morgan in 1968, is now a splendid clump. One of the reddest, with a velvety sheen, is the McEwen POLLY DODGE. EWEN, a tetraploid red, gives a good contrast in larger flower size and foliage. From

Hutchison in England we have a dark purple, PURPLE MERE, and then come three fine McGarvey pinks--all quite different in form--AUGURY, PINK HAZE, and ROANOKE'S CHOICE. Next are Ben Hager's RUBY WINE and SPARKLING ROSE, in redder shades. McEwen's RUFFLED VELVET adds more ruffling with a velvety texture. Sid DuBose's SAVOIR FAIRE and VI LUIHN, in cobalt blue and violet, respectively, are two of the taller ones. Steve Varner's very dark TEALWOOD is unique. Harry Randall's THE GOWER is a fine blue bitone. Larry Harder's TIMELESS is a fine blue self. Fred Cassebeer's BLUE BRILLIANT, WHITE SWIRL and VIOLET FLARE are three Morgan winners we like very much, and Bill McGarvey's WING ON WING makes a splendid white clump. Maurice Kitton's WHITE MAGNIFICENCE blooms earlier and has very different form. And what Siberian planting would be without McGarvey's psychological trio--EGO and SUPER EGO, two fine blues, and ID, pure *chrysographes* and black as the ace of spades?

The Siberian Display Bed occupies a prominent place near the very center of the gardens, mulched in dark woodchips, in a semi-circular design. Between these and the new tall-bearded Guest Bed to the east can be found the new 1982 Siberian Guest Beds. Space does not permit full description but here is a list of the guests and their hybridizers:

Louise Bellagamba: MAGGIE LEE
 Harley Briscoe: STEVE VARNER
 Jim Ennenga: seedlings (to be named BLUE SAILPLANE)
 Ben Hager: THESPIAN, OTHER WORLDS
 Carl Wyatt: NIGHT BREEZE
 Currier McEwen: BLUE BURGEE, DEAR DIANNE, SNOW BOUNTY, VIOLET JOY, EWEN, PEG EDWARDS, BLUE PENNANT, all tets; BLUE ENCORE, BUTTER AND SUGAR, LAVENDER LIGHT, ON AND ON, OUTSET, REDDY MAID, SHIRLEY POPE, SIGNALS BLUE, WHITE ENCORE, DARK RIPPLES, FLOATING ISLAND, POLLY DODGE, PANSY PURPLE, MARILYN HOLMES, SALLY KERLIN, TEAL VIOLET, WELCOME RETURN, SOFT BLUE, HARPSWELL HAZE, NAVY BRASS--another tet, SILVER EDGE, BEE, YANKEE CONSUL.
 Bill McGarvey: PINK HAZE, ROANOKE'S CHOICE, AUGURY, WING ON WING, EARTHSHINE, BLUE CHANTEUSE
 Anna Mae Miller: 3 seedlings
 Steve Varner: ANN DASCH, KISMET, BELFAST, ODE TO LOVE, OUTER LOOP, STEVE, MARANTHA, FRIENDLY WELCOME, NEW WINE, RARE JEWEL, WIDE WINGS, DARK DESIRE
 Cloyd Sensenbach: LITTLE TRICOLOR
 Julius Wadekamper: BORBELETA

The dates for the AIS Convention 1982 are set for June 3,4,5, and we plan to visit the Botanic Garden each day. You all come!

TREASURER'S REPORT 1980 to Feb. 15, 1981
 Gunther Stark

On hand Jan. 1980, checking account	\$ 385.69
Dues income	\$ 695.00
(incl. donations, life memberships)	
Miscellaneous income	41.00
Interest	360.00
Eastern Auction net	375.00
MN & MI Auctions net	412.78 . .
	<u>1883.78</u>
	\$2269.47

Expenses:

Publication, Spring 1980 (printing only)	153.95	
" , Fall 1980 (" ")	183.23	
Postage	177.34	
Typing	84.00	
Deposit Box rent	5.00	
Supplies purchased--envelopes	46.81	650.33

On hand, checking account Feb. 15, 1981	<u>1619.14</u>
	\$2269.47

On hand, 4 \$1000 Chertificates of Deposit
 " " 3 \$ 500 " " "

(Note from Peg Edwards: printing costs went up because we switched from 250 copies to 300; we almost ran out of the spring issue last year, in fact, the printer ran off a few extras as insurance.)

AWARDS 1980

RUFFLED VELVET, Currier McEwen, was the winner of the Morgan Award. Dr. McEwen managed a double dose, as he also won the Payne Award for the best Japanese, with his PURPLE PARASOL. Not only that, but with his Hemerocallis DOUBLE BOURBON, he was runner-up for the Ida Munson Award for best double daylily, with 27 votes to the winner's 34. Currier said he named it because it is the color of a good Bourbon whiskey with sunlight shining through it.

Runners-up for the Morgan were SAVOIR FAIRE, Sid DuBose, with 43 votes; BUTTER AND SUGAR-- there's that McEwen man again; and MARANTHA, Steve Varner.

(My husband says if Currier will produce a hem the color of Duggan's Dew on the rocks as lit by a black-and-white TV, he just might buy it--for himself.--Peg.)

ROBIN NOTES AND QUOTES: Siberian Hybridizing Robin

Sarah Tiffney: Bee, I wonder if your smoky violet on the rosy side is anything like one I have that is a mixture of red and blue, all over, in which you can see both colors? It is an old effect. From the same cross I have an ordinary lavender-pink and a fairly good pink amoena with a bronze throat. This parentage is 62-1 x P1-1E (lavender-pink) X 74B-3E (blue with pinkish cast). 62-1 is MORNING MAGIC by a tall lavender from Rex Pearce seed; P1 and P2 are McGarvey lavender-pinks from ROYAL ENSIGN; 74-3E is (62-1 x P2-1M) X a white from WHITE SWIRL X (TYCOON x SNOW QUEEN). I think the odd colors are coming through the lavenders, which I suspect may be from species *sibirica*. I have long been saying that we do not know what is in *sanguinea* and *sibirica*--we ought to sort it out. Any volunteers?

You know about HOLDEN CLOUGH which Mr. Patton thought was *chrysographes* x *pseudacorus*, and on which Roy Davidson found a shiny yellow seed like those of *foetidissima* and he wondered if H.C. was *chrysographes* x *foetidissima* (Stinky for short)? I had H.C. and Stinky in the greenhouse this spring. I tried self-pollinating a lot of the flowers on H.C.; no takes. I had two flowers on Stinky and put its pollen on H.C. as far as it would go; no takes. I selfed one flower of Stinky and got a fine fat pod of yellow-orange seeds. Currier also let me take pollen of *chrysographes* (I had none) and put it on the other flower of Stinky. It made a pod, and it opened, with two smaller orange seeds, both without content, and one perfectly good seed with fine firm endosperm and a good-sized firm embryo. I put it in a tube of agar--and nothing happened. It just lay there. Then some trouble with contaminants started, and I shifted it, and one end may be swelling a little bit--but I am not sure. Is it slow? Will it grow? Will *Penicillium* get it? (Sarah, can we all tune in next time?)

Bee Warburton: This was probably the one great year of the Siberian here, and I learned a lot--one thing being that they are desperately difficult to dig when well entrenched. Last time Frank did it with the tractor shovel. This time he couldn't. He finally negotiated for a backhoe which did the job, but it was terribly difficult retrieving the ones I wanted, as the plants were close together in the seedling rows, but each as big as a shrub and I wanted about 300 out of the 1500. Just about zero of them demanded to be chucked and in fact one of the only two marked for naming is one that--my first impulse was to step on it before it spread.

It is enormous, and the ATOLL pattern, (usually) a gentle dappling of sunlight on blue lagoons, is raucous in one manifestation which I call 'Crazy Horse' in my notes--it stands out like fine spatterwork. As my first impulse was to stamp on them, I never

would have believed that the biggest one is the only seedling sure of being named (probably Percheron)--it was chosen with firm insistence by Charlie Trommer, who introduces my Siberians (so far only ROSACE). ..He also chose one from the cross that is as large--bigger than any Siberian I've seen before--but is a smoky violet on the rosy side.

--The matter of bud count. Most of last year and this, a notation '2-bud' was a mark against, a very serious deterrent. This year our granddaughter, who once worked in a greenhouse, found that those with only terminal buds were better for cut flowers, and that Siberians were very popular as cut flower material, because at that time there are almost no blue flowers available for special decorations for churches, parties, etc.--they may not be as long-lasting as the Dutch, but this isn't required. One of my neighbors who was hired to decorate a church with all kinds of spring flowers for a wedding, came to me to scrounge some, and brought back the bouquets to show me afterwards, and they were certainly enhanced by the blue Siberians. So I ended up saving some of the best 2-budders and marking them 'cutting.' It seems to be a truism that the best flowers are on the 2-budders.

Incidentally, our next-door neighbor's daughter has grown and sold cut flowers all her schooldays, and they sell so much better than the vegetables they also grow that next year they will start concentrating on flowers.

(Note: These Robin quotes came to me just too late to get in last fall's issue. I'd appreciate getting more from this and other Siberian robins.--Peg.)

BACK TALK

As you have no doubt noticed, we have had a few errors to correct this time--boo-boos, in last issue. I have one of my own to correct; the trouble is, I no longer remember what word I meant to use: About half way down p. 24 I typed 'indicted' which is obviously not in context, and I cannot think what I meant. 'Encouraged' would carry the meaning, but is too long.--Hey--I know! 'Incited' was the word. That's what they did to me.

As for the weather this winter--no comment. I have a lot of comments to make, but my opinion of December and January is not printable in a decent publication. February, which is still with us as I write, has been another story, and now I'm worrying that we'll get a March blizzard, and all the little flowers that are open will be frizz to death. Even the tiny *Narcissus asturiensis* is in bloom!

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If by any chance we have your name, address, Zip code or title
 of address incorrect (we sent a whole slew of letters once to a Pro-
 fessor before we found out he wasn't just Mister any more!), *please*
 let us know quickly. It is so easy to misread someone else's hand-
 writing, or even typing, but your published address should be right.

And now, have a nice spring and summer and wonderful bloom on
 your Siberians--and everything else, too.

Peg-