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Fall, 1973

THE SIBERIAN IRIS



L. Tiltner

Property of The Society for Siberian Irises

THE SIBERIAN IRIS

Fall 1972

Volume 3 Number 6

Index

List of Officers and Chairmen	Page 2
The President's Page	3
Reach Hybridizers Reach; Vay B. Sargo	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Report of Research Committee	5
S-O-S; Elizabeth Seibert	7
Pollen and Seed- a Report; Sarah Wing Highley	8
Display Gardens: Julius Wadekamper	10
A Resolution	11
An Appreciation of Fred Cassebeer; Diane Werner	11
More Amazement; Kevin Vaughn	13
Convention at Portland	14
The Siberian Season; Bee Warburton	21
Siberian Varietal Comments; Kevin Vaughn	24
We Get Questions	25
Sources For Siberian Irises; Sarah Tiffney	26
Robin Quotes	27
The Back Page	28

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Materials may be sent as far in advance as you like- the earlier the
better in case any serious changes, or cuts that might affect the sense
of the passage need to be made, so that there will be time to correspond
about these.

Black and white photographs, and line drawings in black ink, etc.,
will be very welcome. Please put your name on the back if you want them
returned.

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Membership in this Society is open to members of the American Iris Society living in Canada and the United States, and to interested iris enthusiasts overseas. Dues are \$2.00 a year.

The President's Page

The past Spring and Fall have been disappointing in terms of hybridizing effort in our garden but most encouraging from the standpoint of the health of the Society for Siberian Irises. The disappointment resulted from a five week period of fog and drizzle starting just before the buds began to mature and continuing almost to the end of the blooming season. The result was that buds about to unfurl became so covered with mildew that they were stuck together and could not open. The same dreadful weather accounts also I am sure for the very small number of successful crosses this season. I have never had an experience like this before and hope never to again!

In contrast to the garden, our Society has flourished. The Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen have responded to all requests in a superlative way, and I have been delighted to receive expressions of interest and offers of help from a number of members I have not previously known. Perhaps most impressive of all was the interest in Siberians shown at the Oregon Convention. You will read about the Convention elsewhere in this issue, but let me say here that by request the program of the Siberian Section meeting was repeated for those who could not attend the regular session, and played to packed houses both times!

On another page you will see the expression of admiration and affection for Fred Cassebeer adopted by the members in Oregon. Surely no one in our time has done more than Fred for the advancement of Siberians, and that tribute can scarcely convey the full sense of our appreciation to him. I must take this opportunity also to welcome Dr. George Redionenko to the Society as a corresponding member. Director of the Leningrad Botanical Garden and distinguished authority on a wide variety of botanical and horticultural subjects, he has been particularly interested in Siberian irises and we look forward to his contributions to TSI.

This issue brings you, in the form of an insert, the report of the Nominating Committee with the list of nominees and brief description of procedure. I am glad to see that the report shows the states where the nominees live for it is clearly important that the Board should have broad geographic representation. It is good, also, to see a new name on the list. Whereas considerable continuity of membership on the Board is essential, the introduction of new members is most desirable. To this end I urge, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, that you send to the President the names of dedicated and able members whom you recommend as candidates for Board and Committee posts in the future.

The role of our Committees has already been referred to above. Their importance is well illustrated by the reports of the Slide Committee and the Display Garden Committee elsewhere in this issue. I urge you to read

these reports and to help these enterprises.

In several recent issues of TSI there has been discussion regarding nomenclature of the 28 and 40 chromosome groups of Siberian irises. An Ad Hoc Committee will address itself to this question during the coming months and can, I hope, have a full statement of their views ready for the Fall issue next year, if not for next Spring. Meanwhile I urge all of our members who may have cultivars ready for registration to adopt the recommendation on a later page, of including the presumed chromosome number in the data prepared for registration.

By the time this reaches you most of your gardens will have been put to bed for this season. I wish you all a good winter and happy planning for next year's bloom.



REACH HYBRIDIZERS REACH!

By Vay B. Sargo

Since most irises belong to that class The Hardy Perennial, and the accent is on the word 'hardy', and since I have found the Siberians among the very best of these, I wonder why the hybridizers do not achieve an evergreen-foliaged plant? If there is such in existence I'd like to hear of it.

The hybridizers of *Hemerocallis* have raised themselves mightily in my estimation by producing plants that are evergreen. In this part of the Sunny South we enjoy some plants all winter that serve to remind us of the springtime abundance to come. Even when temperatures dip, what a cheery sight is green foliage emerging from a temporary snowdrift...but I see no Siberian foliage. I wish I could!

I have many Siberians edging a meandering path beside a waterway through the lower part of my garden. They bloom most cheerfully and regularly each year as the Tall Bearded fade. I could not be without them.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On deposit 5/9/72	\$ 644.68	
Receipts from dues and publications	65.75	
Auction returns	562.50	Total receipts \$1272.93
Printing 5/9/72	132.55	
Mailing machine	80.00	
Editor's expenses past & future	50.00	Total expenses <u>262.55</u>
Balance on deposit 9/18/72		1010.38

William McGarvey, Treasurer

REPORT OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In the Spring 1972 issue of TSI mention was made of a number of as research projects under way or in the planning stage. Two of these have progressed to the point where they warrant comment.

1. A study of the probability of fertilization in flowers treated in various ways: In TSI Fall 1971 (Vol. 3 No. 4 P. 19ff) it was mentioned that Bee Warburton, in a preliminary experiment, had left blooms uncovered after manually opening nearly mature buds and removing anthers, falls and standards; and that not one had subsequently set a pod. This obviously merited further study since it suggested that 'bee crosses' come only from the flowers' own pollen. However, an additional possibility was that insects are not attracted to flowers dismembered as these were. Hence Bee and Currier McEwen collaborated in the following experiment to test these hypotheses. Individual buds were treated in a variety of ways as noted in Table I, with the results shown.

TABLE I. Treatment of Buds.

	Warb.		McE.		Total	
	Pod set/Neg.		Pod set/Neg.		Pod set/Neg.	
A. Immature buds (i) with anthers and falls removed; not covered.	0	9	0	10	0	19
B. Mature buds (ii) ditto.	0	9	1	9	1	18
C. Immature buds, only anthers removed; not covered.	4	5	0	9	4	14
D. Mature buds; ditto.	2	8	0	9	2	17
E. Opened naturally, nothing removed; not covered.	4	6	3	7	7	13
F. Immature buds, anthers removed, falls tied up (iii)	1	7	1	9	2	16
G. Mature buds, nothing removed, bagged. (iv)	0	10	0	10	0	20
H. Mature buds, nothing removed, falls tied up.	0	7	0	10	0	17
I. Immature buds, anthers and standards removed, not covered.			0	10	0	10
J. Mature buds, ditto.			0	10	0	10

Notes: i- buds not expected to open for 12 hours or more.
 ii- buds expected to open in 1-2 hours.
 iii- falls brought up over flowers and tied.
 iv- opened buds covered with cheesecloth.

There are several discrepancies between results in the two gardens, notably in lines C and D. Furthermore an obvious fault in these experiments is the unexpectedly small number of pods set in the case of flowers

allowed to open normally and left uncovered (line B). This probably reflects the general experience this season in the Northeast where a long period of rain and fog at the season of Siberian iris bloom has been blamed for an exceptionally small number of successful crosses. Hence, although these results suggest that flowers opened in but and with anthers removed are unlikely to be fertilized whether or not they are covered, the discrepancies noted, the total experience of this season, and the small number of tests, leave the results of these experiments in doubt and no conclusions are drawn pending repetition of the study next year.

2. A study of the effect of light on the germination of Siberian Iris seeds. Much work has been done in recent years on the effect of light and darkness on seed germination. As a result there is now a large body of knowledge regarding the light or dark requirements for germination of many plants, especially annuals.(i). The following investigation was undertaken to learn these requirements in the case of Siberian irises. All seeds were from crosses of 28-chromosome cultivars or of tetraploids derived from them. For each cross the seeds were divided into two batches one of which was kept in the light and the other in the dark. The seeds from tetraploid crosses were planted in Multipots in moist Jiffy Mix. Seeds from the diploid crosses were placed on sterile, moist filter paper in sterile Petri dishes. All were kept in a room with temperature held between 65 and 75 degrees. Darkness was achieved by wrapping the flats and boxes containing the Petri dishes in two layers of black plastic sheeting. For testing the effects of light, most of the flats and dishes were exposed to batteries of fluorescent lights each consisting of one daylight tube and one cool light tube for 12 hours daily; others were exposed to the light 24 hours daily. Since there appeared to be no essential difference between those exposed to light in these two ways, their numbers were combined in analyzing the results. These are shown in Table 2.

TABLE II. Effects of light or darkness on germination of seeds.

Exposure	Tetraploid seeds in Jiffy Mix			Diploid seeds in Petri dishes		
	No. seeds	No. germ.	% germ.	No. seeds	No. germ.	% germ.
Light	190	57	30	802	68	8
Dark	191	26	14	898	39	4

It will be seen that for both the seeds planted in flats and those placed in Petri dishes the germination of those exposed to light was about double that of those kept in the dark. Why there should be a difference in the case of those planted in Jiffy Mix is not clear since the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of mix above them would presumably exclude light. It must be stated also

(i) Cathey, H. M., Recent discoveries in seed germination. Horticulture ZLVIII: 36, May 1970

that these figures are the totals of results for all of the 28 crosses and that among these were four batches of seed in which germination in the dark was equal to or better than that of those exposed to light. It is probable, therefore, that Siberian iris seeds are among those without strict requirements as to light or darkness. Clearly, however, they are not benefitted by germination in the dark and there is, therefore, no need to go to the trouble involved in excluding light.

An interesting sidelight of this experiment was the far better germination of seeds planted in Jiffy Mix that those merely placed on moist filter paper. The former were tetraploid and the latter diploid but it is highly improbable that this was responsible for the differences in germination.

10/4/72

Carrier McEwen

(My 2¢: If Dr. McEwen will place $\frac{1}{2}$ " of Jiffy Mix on a sheet of glass and cover it with a piece of clinging plastic wrap, and then look through it at a source of light, he will find that the mix allows a moderate amount of light to filter through. The mix should of course be damp as it would be in a flat. Peg.)

S-O-S!

SUPPORT OUR SOCIETY - - - - - SAVE OUR SLIDES

Elizabeth Seibert

One of the best ways to interest people in growing Siberians, outside of being able to take them to a garden in bloom, is to invite them to view an enjoyable program of Siberian slides.

For those of you who are not aware of the fact, the Society does have a set of slides available for rental. However, I must admit that at present our slide program is far from being adequate for anyone to view. And, if any members should write me tomorrow and ask to rent the set we have, I would have to tell them that the slides are old, outdated, and have very few, if any, of the newer award-winning Siberians to show. Frankly, it is embarrassing not only to me but for the Society.

Until about four weeks ago I was probably the only non-grower who had any interest in helping with any portion of our Society's doings. But I knew a job had to be done. I have some new ideas, and others have ideas on presenting a good slide program on Siberians that can be rented by any local group. But we are missing the one basic ingredient: we need slides. We need slides of the newer varieties.

What can you do to help? Our SOS is very plain. Please check your own slides, especially you hybridizers, and donate to the Society two or three or more slides if possible. Do it now so that we can have our new

program available in January 1973.

Our new program is based on an entirely different concept, one that will be interesting for the viewer and which can easily be updated as new slides are sent to us. With proper application of our slide program, the possibility of enrolling new members for our Society is great.

Please then, heed our plea: Support Our Society; Share Original Slides.

Send your slides, properly marked as to varieties shown, to
Mrs. Marshall P. Seibert
R. D. #1, Box 95
Clarksville, Penna. 15322

Pollen and Seed - a Report.

Sarah Wing Highley

The research project on pollen storage has been completed. This project, which was started in 1967 and continued until 1971, was undertaken to determine the most advantageous way for the average person to store pollen from one bloom season to the next.

The requirements of successful pollen storage are:

1. successful collecting
2. complete drying
3. proper storage.

Pollen collection is often unsuccessful due to a variety of hazards, both natural and man-made. Collecting the pollen as grown, whole and uncontaminated by that of other cultivars, isn't easy, yet it is totally necessary for accuracy in later steps. When one considers the range of hazards, from thrips, bees, hummingbirds and moths, through small boys, dogs, kind neighbors and garden visitors, to careless and/or unknowing distributors- not to mention the weather- it is a miracle anything ever blooms as planned. It is best to collect pollen from buds selected from clumps which have proven typical or true to their variety. The unopened buds are picked in late afternoon, just as they start to loosen, and washed and then left to open in water. Anthers should only be collected from typical, normally opened flowers, preferably from those which have opened indoors. Label the bottle well; the easiest label is a piece of masking tape and a ball point pen.

Now that you have your pollen what will you store it in? The easiest storage is a piece of wax paper folded up like an envelope. This however is not very secure; it will do to get the pollen and anthers from the flower arrangement on the speaker's table safe home, but for long term storage it is wise to purchase some $\frac{1}{2}$ oz french square screw-cap bottles. They can be obtained from any scientific supply house or perhaps you can talk your druggist into ordering some for you. They are about \$2 a dozen.

While you are ordering get some 6- or 8-mesh indicating drierite (\$2.60 per pound). This is lumps about the size of a grain of rice or a pea, depending on the size you get. It is blue when dry and pink when wet. When it is wet it can be dried by placing in the oven for 30 minutes to an hour at 200 F., till the color changes back to blue.

A deep plastic bowl with a tight seal completes your dessicator jar. To assemble the jar, place a layer of drierite in the bottom of the bowl and cover it with a piece of typing paper or a piece of screen; either should be cut to fit. Now you have a solid foundation to set your bottles on while drying. Put the anthers in the bottles, label them, and put the caps on very loosely. Set the bottles in the dessicator until needed, covering the bowl firmly. If the pollen is to be stored for the next season, dry for one week and then tighten the cap and drip candle wax around the opening or dip the cap into melted paraffin to seal it. Freeze in the freezer of the refrigerator until needed. This pollen is good for at least five years. Once the bottle is opened, however, it should be used within a week or so, and it is very sensitive to moisture.

It will often be noted that anthers as treated curl up and seem to have no pollen. Some Siberians have no pollen, being only female. There is little that can be done about these male-sterile cultivars. However the curled anthers from a fertile variety can be treated in several ways. First place the anther in the room air for several hours. He may uncurl and even if he doesn't the remaining operations are easier. What has happened is simple, but to explain it I must go into the anatomy of our boy. Before the pollen is ripe the anther is a hollow tube, lined with pollen. There is a groove on the surface. When the pollen is ripe this tube splits along this groove and turns back. This exposes the pollen so the bees and thrips and people can carry it to the stigma, the fertile lip of the style. Sometimes in drying the anther shrinks and curls up and this groove closes again. This calls for surgery! Use a good light, your strongest glasses, forceps or eyebrow tweezers, and a needle. Hold the anther steady in the forceps and find the groove. Now pry it open with the needle, and presto, pollen! You can scrape it out with the broad end of a toothpick, a cotton-tipped applicator stick, or even the traditional camel's-hair brush. Bowles recommended a piece of pointed sealing wax or amber rubbed on his (undoubtedly wool) suit.

If worse comes to worst, the entire anther can be ground up and used. Takes with this method are less than with pure pollen but are surprisingly good. Put the anther in a saucer, place the bottom end of the cup on it and grind. Handle the resultant powder as if it were pollen, but use it very generously.

We have ended this experiment, and no longer have a stock of pollen. A move left our garden with very few cultivars and no species. Until we

have our display garden stocked there will be little pollen available.

However the committee has available a limited supply of seeds from 28 and 40 chromosome Siberians. For the most part these are from 'bee set' pods and therefore only one parent is known. For the first time we have for distribution seeds from tetraploid cultivars. Anyone wishing to have seeds or information regarding seeds is invited to write to

Dr. Sarah Wing Highley
219 New Street
Tuskegee, Alabama 36083

A small handling charge is necessary on the seeds. 50¢ each type should cover postage etc.

Display Gardens

Julius Wadekamper

At the present time we have eight Display Gardens in the United States. They are:

1. Dr. Currier McEwen, South Harpswell, Maine 04079
2. Kevin Vaughn, 2017 South Athol Road, Athol, Mass. 01331 (81 Siberians)
3. William Peck Jr., Yellow Cote Road (Mt. Rt. Box 30) Oyster Bay N. Y. 11771 (62 Siberians)
4. Julius Wadekamper, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Maple Lake, Minn. 55358 (23 Siberians)
5. Larry Harder, Ponca, Nebr. 68770 (70 Siberians)
6. Verna Cook & Jerry Flintoff, 6924 Pacific Hiway East, Tacoma, Wash. 98242 (131 Siberians)
7. Robert Schreiner, 3625 Quinaby Rd. N. E., Salem, Ore. 97303 (27 Siberians)
8. Vi and Walt Luhn, 523 Cherry Way, Hayward, Calif. 94541 (174 Siberians)

We are negotiation for some more. If anyone grows a substantial number of Siberians I would appreciate your contacting me and perhaps we could list your garden as an official Display Garden.

- Our rules are few and easy. There are no extended reports to make:
1. Send a list of the Siberians you grow to the Chairman of the Committee, Julius Wadekamper, as above,
 2. Open your garden to visitors during the time of Siberian bloom. Any local publicity you can arrange for to bring people to your garden is welcome, but optional.
 3. Be willing to send surplus Siberians to display gardens that do not have them. This would depend on your time to dig, pack and send surplus plants and would take into consideration the cultivars involved.

A RESOLUTION

The following resolution has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Society for Siberian Irises:

Whereas The Society For Siberian Irises has created an honorary membership to recognize extraordinary service and distinction, and

Whereas it has been unanimously agreed by the Board of Directors and Members of The Society For Siberian Irises at the meeting in Portland, Oregon, May 24, 1972, that Fred W. Cassebeer notably merits this recognition, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES BE GIVEN TO FRED W. CASSEBEER WITH THE AFFECTION AND HIGH REGARD OF THE MEMBERS.

An Appreciation of Fred Cassebeer
Diane Werner, Reg. 19.

When irisarians think about Siberian Irises, the name of Fred Cassebeer naturally comes to mind. It was Fred who elevated Siberians from a rather humble status in the iris world to the popularity they enjoy today. Because of his high standards in choosing seedlings to work with we have superb Siberians.

I visited Fred in April with two of his friends, George and Ann Buchanan. They met forty-five years ago when the two men were involved in hybridizing gladioli. They reminisced about the year George volunteered to plant Fred's Siberian seeds as Fred had no space left. After they collected the seedpods and extracted the seeds there were four coffee cans full of seeds! George plowed a wide furrow the length of his field and scattered the seeds along the entire length. Out of the thousands of seedling blooms three years later, Fred chose 150 which might have possibilities. He is a perfectionist regarding both form and color.

The Cassebeer gardens are located in West Nyack, N. Y., in a most picturesque setting. They extend to the brink of Lake DeForest; and behind the lake, in the distance, is a range of hills which adds to the beauty of the setting. All this can be enjoyed the year round from the comfortable living room of his home, for the entire wall facing the lake is of glass, and this continues around the corner for about six feet, all giving a view of the entire gardens.

Fred Cassebeer has always impressed me as a rather shy and quiet gentleman who prefers to let his accomplishments speak for him. He is a man of many talents. Until his retirement, he was a pharmacist, the fifth generation of Cassebeers to follow this profession. His apothecary shop, as he liked to call it, was located in the midst of Manhattan on Madison Avenue. However, all his spare time was spent working with and

photographing flowers.

He became interested in photography in Dartmouth College and perfected this art to the professional point. He was photographer for the Federated Garden Clubs and has taken slides of exhibits everywhere, including the International Flower Shows. His work has appeared in numerous magazines and catalogs. He is especially proud of the work he did for the beautiful Jackson & Perkins catalogs. Our own American Iris Society Bulletin were enriched by his photographs.

"A good photograph is the greatest publicity an iris can get", he remarked, and credits the success of White Swirl to the cover picture of a magnificent clump of it on the January 1958 Bulletin.

He served as editor of the Bulletin for five years in the early forties. His assistant editor then was Miss Marcia Cowan, who later became Mrs. Cassebeer. About his years as editor Fred said, "My wife did all the work- give her the credit. She was a writer and publicity expert; I just made the photographs."

He was also a Director of the American Iris Society for six years, and during that time designed the two medals given for Achievement in Hybridizing and for Distinguished Service to the Society. He has been awarded both medals; in 1952 he received the Distinguished Service Medal and in 1968 the Hybridizer's Medal.

Fred began his hybridizing with gladioli in the 1920's, and introduced some fine varieties. Among them was the lovely cerise Helen Hayes, named for his neighbor and lifelong friend.

Early in the thirties he became interested in irises, joined the American Iris Society and began visiting hybridizers. These visits took him over into Massachusetts to the garden of Mrs. Thomas Nesmith who became his advisor in iris hybridizing. "None of them ever got anywhere", he said, meaning perhaps that none of them won the Dykes Medal. But his work with Siberians was quite another matter.

His masterpiece is White Swirl- his pride and joy. It was and is the ne plus ultra of the Siberians. It is used by all Siberian breeders here and abroad. However, the Cassebeer blues are also famous. In the 1960's he won four Morgan Awards with White Swirl, Blue Brilliant, Violet Flare and Pirouette, and has won six EM's. His last introductions in 1969 are Au Sable River, a rich lobelia blue, and Clear Pond, a clear blue-violet.

Fred was partially disabled by a stroke several years ago. Two years later his son John, his constant companion and co-worker in the garden, was struck down by a drunk driver while away at college. The final blow was the passing of Mrs. Cassebeer in 1970. Fred has since been invalided and says his gardening days are over. However when we were there he did seem stronger and his handclasp was firm. So we hope and pray that warm

days and iris bloom will find him back in his garden creating beauty for us to share and enjoy.

(Our thanks to the Sooner State Iris News, August 1971, for the privilege of using this. The last paragraph was adapted slightly.)

Some of Fred's introductions:

- 1955- Furbelow, Pink Panoply, Primrose Bonnet, Sweetheart's Folly, TBs; Fairy Butterfly, Siberian.
- 1956- Bermuda Sea, Blushbottom, Splendid thing, Strawtown, TBs.
- 1957- Billowy Cloud, Mustard Pot, TBs; Sputnik, BB, White Swirl, Siberian.
- 1958- Helen Hayes, TB.
- 1959- Blue Brilliant, Violet Flare, Siberians; Summer Sunset, BB.
- 1960- Barnegat Light, Patrician Sweetheart, Tahitian Maid, TBs.
- 1962- Placid Waters, Siberian.
- 1963- Pirouette, Siberian; Seven Eleven, BB; Traviata, TB.
- 1964- Renaissance, TB.
- 1965- Stoutheart, TB, Sugar Pie, BB.
- 1967- Molly Price, TB.
- 1969- Au Sable River, Clear Pond, Siberians.

MORE AMAZEMENT

Kevin Vaughn

As reported in the Fall 1970 issue of TSI by myself and in Fall 1971 by Mrs. Wiswell, a successful cross between a Siberian and a TB resulted in the light yellow hybrid registered as 'Amazement'. Until this year no seeds have resulted from either outcrossings of selfings.

This spring Mrs. Wiswell found what she thought must be good pollen so she selfed several blossoms. Several weeks later she found three huge pods heavy with seeds. Since Elsa Sass was the pollen parent of 'Amazement' I'll be interested in seeing what kind of expression the xanthophyll will exhibit in the F₂.

In fact I'm looking forward to the day when we have a whole series of these Sib-TB hybrids, hardy as the Siberians and with the colors of the tall, or, looking at it from a different viewpoint, Siberian types that will grow well in Southern California.

There's one thing sure, Mrs. Wiswell started something when she daubed that pollen on a Siberian. For those who are wondering, 'Amazement' will be introduced next year.

- * - * - * -

Valera Chemowath writes that the April 1972 San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Show there were 25 specimens of 19 cultivars, and 6 collections of 3 different cultivars of Siberians exhibited by 9 individuals. Good going for Southern California!

Convention at Portland

I. Siberian Activity at Portland; by Currier McEwen.

One of the problems of a Society like SSI is that the wide scattering of board and general membership makes it impractical to get together for meetings very often. The annual AIS Convention presents one such opportunity.

The first general activity was the pre-convention bus tour arranged by the Species group. Although the aim was to see *I. tenax* in the wild, and it was not concerned with Siberians, it provided a fine opportunity for a number of SSI members who took part to meet each other and discuss the Society and Siberians in a leisurely, informal way.

On May 24th the Board members present at the Convention met for discussion of various questions to be presented to the full Board later by mail. Among the topics covered were: the desirability for revising the By-Laws, the need for committees to study the problem of nomenclature and to keep up to date the Check List of Siberian Irises, and the desirability of creating Life Memberships as has been done by other Sections of AIS. All these issues were subsequently endorsed by the full Board.

In the early afternoon of May 24th the regularly scheduled Section meeting of SSI took place. In spite of simultaneously scheduled meetings of other Sections, a gratifyingly large number attended. The actual count of those who signed the sheet passed through the audience was 69, from 22 states, and including Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Collins from New Zealand. The count by states was:

Alabama	2	Kansas	2	Ohio	4
Arizona	1	Maine	2	Oklahoma	2
California	12	Maryland	2	Oregon	4
Colorado	1	Minnesota	2	Virginia	2
Connecticut	1	Missouri	5	Washington	8
Idaho	3	Montana	1	Wisconsin	2
Iowa	1	New Mexico	2	New Zealand	2
New Jersey	2	New York	5		

At a short business meeting a resolution presenting Honorary Membership to Fred Cassebeer was warmly adopted. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a panel discussion followed by a question and answer period and the showing of slides. The panel participants were: Ben Hager on culture of Siberians, Julius Wadepammer on diseases and pests, Jean Witt on the 40-chromosome group, Bill McGarvey on hybridizing and Currier McEwen on tetraploidy. Unfortunately Bill McGarvey was prevented from attending because of illness at home, but his topic was covered by others and Harry Kuesel was able to show slides of the fine McGarvey cultivars.

As mentioned above, some who wished to attend our Section Meeting were prevented from doing so by other meetings being held at the same time. By request, therefore, the session was repeated on the evening of May 26th. This time an attendance record was not kept but extra chairs had to be brought in from other rooms and there were at least as many present as for the first session. An additional feature of much interest was the fuller discussion, with slides, of 40-chromosome species, Cal-Sibes and native species and hybrids by Jean Witt and Lorena Reid.

As was to be expected the greatest emphasis in the tour gardens was on TBs but there were excellent displays of Siberians and species at the Tompkins and Schreiners gardens. At Tompkins' a long bed had been arranged by LeRoy Davidson presenting a fine collection of native species and hybrids as well as some 40-chromosome Siberians. All who saw these lovely flowers were bound to have their interest in them aroused.

At Schreiners' there were extensive rows of older and new Siberian cultivars lined out in the propagating beds; and in a lovely setting near Bob Schreiner's house a really superb display garden containing beautifully grown clumps of most of the best introductions of Brummitt, Cassebeer, Hager, Hutchison, Kitton, McCord, McGarvey, Sensenbach, Varner and others.

A feature which attracted much attention at the Convention was a display of Spuria and Japanese irises brought to the meeting rooms by Ben Hager and others from Southern California and of Siberians brought by Verna Cook from Tacoma, Washington. Of course, since Siberians bloom with the TBs they are seen in the tour gardens, as noted above, but having some on display in the hotel was so successful that it is something to plan for future meetings.

All in all it was a great convention in a beautiful part of our country. Our hosts outdid themselves in their arrangements for our comfort and enjoyment. And from the special standpoint of SSI the interest shown in Siberian irises was particularly encouraging.

II. Varietal Notes: by Currier McEwen.

The fine display garden of Siberian irises at Schreiner's Garden in Salem, Oregon, gave visitors to the Convention an excellent opportunity to see a large number of introductions of various hybridizers as they grow in that section of the country. In the following notes the cultivars are grouped by hybridizer. First let me comment on the two which I thought the most outstanding of the ones that were new to me. These were Mrs. Brummitt's 'Anniversary' and an unnamed seedling of Cloyd Sensenbach.

'Anniversary' is surely the finest white I have yet seen; pure white in color with unobtrusive yellow areas at the hafts, round and full in

in form and beautifully ruffled. Of medium height, the plant I saw had one branch per scape (I will not comment on bud count in these notes since that is proper only with thoroughly setablished plants and some of those seen were obviously only in their secons year.)

The Sensenbach seedling I thought the best I have yet seen in its color class, a rich violet deeper and more glowing than 'Violet Flare' and with a larger flower. The form is semi-flaring with wide ruffled falls and an arrangement of standards and styles that makes the blaze unobtrusive. It was of medium height and had fine branching. At Schreiner's it was labeled # 12. I trust that it can be identified and named for I am sure it deserves introduction.

Brummitt: In addition to 'Anniversary' all of Mrs. Brummitt's other introductions were represented. 'Cambridge', her lovely light blue winner of the English Dykes Medal, is certainly the best available in its color. It is round, flaring, ruffled and has fine branching. Its only fault to me is its blaze, the yellow of which is a trifle harsh for the delicate blue of the falls. 'Dreaming Spires' is a medium blue-violet, ruffled, flaring, and with lighter styles fiving an attractive contrast. It has endeared itself to us especially as a source of yellow for it is the mother of our 'Dreaming Yellow'. 'Limeheart' is a tailored white, somewhat like 'White Swirl' in form but with some green lines showing at the haft where the customary yellow area is small and has a greenish tme. 'Sea Shadows' was rather like 'Dreaming Spires' but somewhat lighter in color and more open in form. 'Violet Repeat' was a fairly dark violet-purple with distinct blazes and flaring form, which one gathers from the name is a rebloomer. The latter should make it especially desirable for breeding.

Cassebeer: My convention notes unfortunately contain data on only four of Fred Cassebeer's great flowers- 'Blue Brilliant', 'Pirouette', 'Violet Flare', and 'White Swirl'. 'Blue Brilliant' and 'Violet Flare' are now too well known to require comment other than to say that the former remains a standard for clear medium blue and the latter for flaring form and violet color. 'Pirouette' is a medium blue-violet with nicely contrasting turquoise style arms and the color of the semiflaring, ruffled falls slightly deeper at the base than at the edges. 'White Swirl' remains the standard for comparison among whites. Through its contribution of wide segments and round, flaring falls ithas the distinction of having done more than any other cultivar for the advancement of Siberian irises in recent times.

Hager: Ben Hager was represented by 'Ruby Wine', 'Sparkling Rose' and 'Swank'. The first two are similar in being improvements in the red class of Siberians but the former, as the names imply, is deeper in color than the latter. Both have wide round falls and an area of paler color tinged with blue surrounding the yellow blaze. 'Swank' is a fine, moderately ruffled, medium blue with wide, semiflaring falls and attrac-

tive blaze markings.

Hutchison: I have notes on four introductions of this well-known English hybridizer which were seen in the Schreiner garden- 'Blue Mere', 'Ellesmere', 'Purple Cloak', and 'Purple Mere'. All are large, with wide falls and fine substance, and range in shades of blue from medium to dark and to dark blue-purple. In the plant I saw of 'Purple Cloak' the falls tended to tuck under but the rest were semi-flaring. My favorite was 'Purple Mere' which I consider an outstanding deep bluish-purple Siberian.

Kitton: England was again represented by a number of Mr. Kitton's 28- and 40-chromosome introductions. Among the former 'Court White', 'Japanese White' and 'White Magnificence' were all excellent whites of semi-flaring form and yellow hafts. The latter is taller than the others and truly makes a magnificent display. 'Jimmy's Gem' is of a 'different' bluish magenta color with considerable plicata-like white markings surrounding the brownish-yellow blaze. It too is semi-flaring and moderately ruffled. Of the 40-chromosome hybrids I have notes on 'Barbara's Choice' and 'Yellow Court'. Both are of typical 40-chromosome form with pendant falls and smaller flowers than the 28s. The former is distinctive in being almost white with faint bluish tints and with dark purple lines and light yellow tones at the site of the blaze. 'Yellow Court' is a clear warm yellow with only faint dark lines at the base of the falls.

McCord was represented by his fine 'Grand Junction', a large darkish medium blue which makes an imposing clump of more than medium height. The wide round falls, which are of pendant type, are set off by a large white blaze at the base. The plant I saw did not show branching.

McCarvey: 'Dewful', 'Ego' and 'Super Ego' are now so familiar to Siberian enthusiasts that no large amount of comment is necessary. Altho' 'Dewful' was the first to win the Morgan and 'Ego' the last, I would agree with Bill and rate them in the reverse order. However, all are so fine that such comparisons are of small moment. 'Dewful' is a dark blue-purple with contrasting styles, 'Ego' a medium blue-violet with the nicest compact form of any Siberian I know, and 'Super Ego' a lighter blue, less flaring than the others and set off by darker veining at the base of the falls. The latter two are among the later bloomers. 'Dewful' and 'Super Ego' branch but 'Ego' has not in our garden, yet it puts on a show equal to that of the others.

Rich: 'Lights of Paris' is indeed lighted by the rich golden yellow at the base of the falls which makes the rest of the flower very white by comparison. The flower is of the pendant type and medium size. It has excellent branching and is reported to be better than most in the warmer, drier parts of the country.

Sensenbach: Cloyd Sensenbach's superb violet seedling has been referred to above. His other on display was 'Little Tricolor' which has a base color of bluish red with blue and white tones showing at the base

of the falls. It has fine branching, is lower than average in height, and makes a lovely clump.

Varner: 'Tealwood' requires no comment from me other than that it remains the best of the dark, almost black purples and also is the standard of excellence from the standpoint of velvetiness. There are now a number of cultivars with velvety falls but few like 'Tealwood' whose standards have this desirable texture also. The flat, almost horizontal standards also add to its distinction. I wish it were not quite so tall but that is quibbling. Steve's 'illini Encore' was also seen. The color in Oregon was off-white washed with pinkish lavender. The form appeared to be of usual pendant type with some ruffling. It was decidedly on the tall side. Its outstanding features were excellent branching and bud count, characteristics which deserve more attention in breeding than they usually receive.

Special comment is reserved for the Cal-Sibes, which Jean Witt and Leona Mahood have done so much to popularize. The four I saw were rather similar in form and plant habit though differing in color. All are delightfully graceful and are almost delicate in appearance- but not in fact, for they have flourished in our garden in Maine. The falls are nicely horizontal and the whole flower in excellent proportion to the 18 to 22" height of the plants. All I saw had base colors of yellow-buff or bluish white delicately streaked and dotted with deeper colors. 'Desert Dream' gives an overall effect of tan, 'Joe's Yellow' is as its name implies, 'Swirling Mist' a dainty blend of buff and blue, and 'Fair Colleen' a soft blue. They belong near the front of the border where they bloom with the later Siberians and extend the season. Alas, they are sterile hybrids and hence useless in breeding but they are charming and should be much more widely grown.

In closing these varietal comments I want to mention four other cultivars although they were not seen in Oregon, namely, Bee Warburton's 'Deep Shade', 'Shadow Lake', 'Stellar Blue' and 'Whirl'. The last is a very flaring creamy white and the others various shades of blue. All have wide flaring falls of rich coloring and attractive hafts and show pronounced veining. I have not seen Bee's 'Blue Song' in bloom but am told by Kevin Vaughn it is the best of the five. Although a veteran in Median breeding Bee is a newcomer with Siberians. Yet in a few years she has been able to select five of which every one is a winner. It is a perfect example of what can be accomplished in Siberians by making planned crosses using good parents. The field is wide open compared with the tall bearded irises and it is to be hoped that many new hybridizers will pick up the torch as Bee Warburton has!

III. Touring the Gardens- LeRoy Davidson.

We were very privileged to see lots of Siberians at the Oregon Convention. There were blocks of transplants in the growing fields and spec-

imen clumps in the display gardens.

Everyone approved the British Dykes award to 'Cambridge', which was giving a good show on two-year clumps- and in clumps the color is really telling. It seemed to me to be pure sanguinea without branching, but I note elsewhere that Currier mentioned its fine branching; could I really have overlooked this??- in this case it is not pure sanguinea. The clump is a sea of color, in any event. 'Dreaming Spires' though very nice didn't have the color appeal of 'Cambridge'. Some of the McGarvey beauties were impressive in clumps too; not yet in sufficient supply to be lined out to increase for sale, but soon by the looks of them.

The 40-chromosomes received a lot of interest; a mini-busload of non-TB conventioneers visited Lorena Reid's garden in Springfield, Oregon, about two hours' drive from our hotel headquarters. We'd have liked to stay all day in this immaculate nursery. Laurie had some of the most fascinating new breaks in the seedling rows and we brought back a number so that others could see them. One, as cute as a bug's ear, was about 15 inches tall, a frilly compact one with a pattern of slaty purple over a yellow ground. Now this may sound dull; but it wasn't. It was subtle, true, but its impact was not obscured by its modesty. The falls were butter yellow with an allover pattern of heavy lines, and the standards were sort of smoky violet, not grey, not mud, and the styles blended in. This was a chrysofor seedling, numbered R1-3 on the spot, and seemed to be accumulating the necessary votes for HC, there being a covey of judges present. Two others that had taken all eyes before we discovered the 'bug-in-a-rug' were taller and not so contrasting, both from 'Mirza Citronella' seed, one from a BIS lot, the other from our own AIS seed exchange. These were more nearly muted blends, but again the color was pleasing, and the first-year clumps had many stems of flowers. AIS-MC-R2-1 is frilly violet-purple on a pale ground, with a butterfly-wing pattern of lines, the standards being more nearly a dove grey. BIS-MC-R5-1 was more contrasty in that the ground color was yellower, there was a concentration of the darker color to form a spot-signal, and the styles were mid-striped in a greyed violet on yellow. These were about 25" or so, and quite distinct among their several dozens of sibs. There is a certain delicacy to this pattern of spots, dots and dashes that rivets the attention.

At Lauries we saw a grand row of the spectacular and controversial I. sibirica that may or may not be 'Grandis' but which is certainly grand, standing to 6 feet, with ramrod stiffness and general-inspection precision, the fluttering blue-violet on white flowers all up and down the stems which branch freely and are profusely budded. Had this been in the convention display gardens it would have stopped all traffic. Here is the opposite extreme to such as the Brummitt and McGarvey 'compacts', with both plant and flower in free expression of glorious abandon- no trace of the inhibitions that the compact types seem to convey, lovely though they are. We saw equally beautiful 'Zerita' there too and were not impressed

with its falling-down stalk which just cannot hold aloft its lovely banners- quite by contrast to this 'Grandis'.

It must be said that the Cal-Sibes attracted a lot of interest. 'El Tigre' (Mahood) from innominata and a 40-chromosome yellow Siberian, is stately with two buds on slim stalks well above the foliage in perfect carriage, and colored with tiger-markings of red-brown on soft yellow. 'Fair Colleen' (Mahood) was from a bee-pod on douglasiana. It is by comparison not the epitome of form but it extremely floriferous in an all-over pattern of lavender-blue on ivory-white in a dainty effect. "By-A-Bee" (not reg.; my name for it) is an example of a collected Cal-Sibe, no kidding! Someone brought it to Carl Starker many years ago for identification after finding it in a pasture of I. tenax. Bees had flown pollen from a garden Siberian out to the pasture and the seed had grown, then the plant had been recognized by that someone as being distinct. It is sort of a pleasant purple with a faint spot-blend of concentrated color.

'Swirling Mist' (Witt) is a lovely plant with a sort of pearly color, from a chrysofor. I didn't see 'Desert Dream', from Drake, the Scottish alpinist, in Oregon. But here is just as described and just as lovely, a graceful and dainty blend, sort of buffy rose, very frilly and compact; in fact it is AAA in my book for conformation of iris form. There is some highlight of color in the falls and some yellow markings too. It is from chrysographes-innominata descent.

Delora Thompson Smith had a very nice Cal-Sibe in the display garden as 'Delora's Fat White' which is to be registered, though I fear the chosen name has been taken so I won't use it here. This is a broad-petaled and well-substanted white, not fat and pudgy, more 'muscled', with a faint cloud-blue wash over the center of the falls. It came from a Craig-Mitchell douglasiana-innominata seedling known as Craig's Blue-eyed White, x white tenax. These Cal-Sibes are bound to catch on and we sorely need to test them for performance in many climates.

I can't stop without a word of admiration for 'Swank' and for the choice of name Ben gave it. It has just that fine, indefinable mark of quality that gives it, not merely appeal, for it is not just a novelty, but also real style and 'swank'.

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Region 15 will host the National Convention in 1975 with San Diego as host city. Valera Chenoweth reports: "I have seen Siberians blooming with the TBs in five of the nine proposed gardens. I hope that hybridizers take this opportunity to show their Siberians by sending them early and in large enough divisions for more than one garden, since our temperatures between coast and inland gardens may vary by as much as 10 to 30 degrees. As of this writing the Guest Iris Chairman has not been designated. For those interested in sending guest Siberians, I will be happy to supply information until the Chairman is selected." That's Mrs. Valera Chenoweth, 7606 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Cal. 92045.

The Siberian Season

Bee Warburton

In this past season of disasters, the Siberian irises stood out with magnificent bloom, and were in fact tremendous, so that even their less-than satisfactory seed-setting couldn't spoil the happiness. They apparently liked all the wet and increased so much they didn't feel called upon to propagate themselves by bearing seed. Those in high clumps were uniformly gorgeous, and it's hard to choose any favorites, though I do especially like the 'White Swirl' type blues, 'Cambridge', 'Swank', 'Ego'- but it is equally pleasing to have a new and superior blue of the fluttery type, 'Sky Wings'. Small plants always have a special appeal to me, and 'Little White' is a darling, with ruffy flowers in perfect proportion; in the dark ones, 'Tealwood' is still a standout, and the three red-toned ones, 'Carrie Lee', 'Sparkling Rose' and 'Ruby Wine' were all handsome in the downhanging fluttery type. Oddly, I don't yet grow a red-toned one in the wide flaring 'White Swirl' form, though we saw some pink ones, believe it or not, in Bill McGarvey's slides at his talk here for the Apogon auction meeting on August 27th. A happy showing in that talk was of movies of Siberian clumps, showing the wind dance of the fluttery type of flower, which cannot be evaluated in still shots.

This was the year when it dawned on me that the Siberians are taking me over. For one thing, a mature plant is a BUSH, and a row of them is a HEDGE, and the parallel rows of seedlings lined out in '69 are grown together into a solid mass. These will have to be removed, or divided, by bull strength (not mine) and a crowbar. A commercial planting, not to be too much of a struggle, would have to be redivided and relined-out every year. The first year a division is easy, by fork. The second year it's something of a struggle, but possible. The third year- forget it! This is, of course, what makes the Siberians such topnotch garden perennials. For the gardener, wonderful. For the commercial- he can cope. But pity the poor hybridizer with his multitudes of seedlings. Or, on second thoughts, don't pity him- he's having a wonderful time, as I have had with that hedge of White Swirl. It's about ten years old and seems to get more beautiful every year, and every year for some time I've done an experiment on it. Now it's gone from about ten feet to about five, by virtue of crowbarring out clumps for gifts and auction sales. It's an island in Frank's garden and needs to come out, but it shrivels my soul to think of destroying it, and even he shrinks from such a deed.

The row of colchicine-treated seedlings from 1971 bloomed just about 100% and the quantity and quality of bloom were actually better than those of the lined-out divisions of established varieties planted in late summer. The earliest-planted of the seedlings colchicined in 1972 show a distinct separation in growth and increase from those in the same row which were

lined out in June, and those planted in July are still single. The latter are from a most appreciated gift of germinating seed from pure tetraploid crosses, from Currier after he had removed as many as he could grow. Imagine having a surplus of intercrossed tetraploids! Of course, anything worthy goes back to him, but in the meantime they are there for pollen and to pod. Since they continued to germinate throughout the summer, we ended up with nearly 90 of them, which is a goodly row of pure gold.

They will certainly not bloom until 1974, and it has struck us that it would be well worth germinating all the Siberian seeds under the lights for the great advantage of lining out fair-sized seedlings at the very first of the iris season, early in May here. This would then insure first-year bloom and early selection, with a full year's start on the next generation.

Thus the excellent first-year bloom of the treated plants was advantageous in many ways, but it was disappointing that not one of them set a pod to self, to any other in the series, or to known (McEwen) tetraploids. I took batches of all suspected pollens up to Currier's on the day of our tour there, and he examined them under his microscope and diagnosed some as chimeral, but only one of those he examined showed a percentage of tetraploid pollen grains sufficient so that it might have been fertile. Others showed some tetraploid grains and were marked to keep anyway. I learned how to examine the pollen in a drop of water on the slide, and how the two sizes look. I was happy to find that Currier uses a magnification (40x) available with my low-powered mike, and that all I need is an easily obtainable gauge for one of its lenses. I have two good rows of treated plants dividing nicely for next year's bloom, and perhaps I'll have better luck. I suppose it would make better sense to start with Currier's fine tetraploid varieties, but I WANNA DO IT MYSELF, MOMMY!

All of my seeds this year, except some volunteer seed on Currier's tetraploids, is from White Swirl pollen, freshly teeped from opening buds. The Scientific Committee's experiments of this year were designed to test the chances of unplanned pollination by wind or insects after various measures of protection, and the results were inconclusive because the season was so poor for sets, and only 4 out of 10 controls, not protected in any way, simply tagged and let go, turned out to be sets. I have never had a set on a flower stripped completely of standards, falls and anthers before the bud had opened, without applying pollen, but a separate test on 'White Swirl' with its own pollen only, stripping opening buds and pollinating immediately with their own pollen, gave me 8 sets and 4 non-sets, while tying up opening buds one day and pollinating the next with freshly collected pollen, after stripping, gave me 8 sets and 2 non-sets. There were no sets either on stripped opening buds

or on tied-up buds stripped before pollination with 24-hour teeped pollen. However this might not apply to pollen of varieties known to have really potent pollen. There seems no doubt that while the pollen of 'White Swirl' when dehisced artificially has some potency, it is not as viable as that of many other varieties.

'Fourfold White' was the only tetraploid that yielded any pale, freshlooking and presumable viable seed, with ten of them in four naturally set pods, the rest of their cavities being lined with chaffy aborted ovules. If we concluded that these few seeds were from self-pollination, we would have to say that this is not a very efficient process in this particular tetraploid, and less so in the others growing nearby which set only tiny aborted pods.

The 'White Swirl' pods offer among the chaff and the pale, smooth seeds, some that are brown and when squashed prove to be hollow. Whether they grew this way or were damaged by insects is difficult to say. While shelling out 38 pods and preparing them for refrigeration by adding a small amount of Arasan and a drop of water and wrapping in Saran, I discovered just one live weevil. I note that capsules which are not infested remain green for a long time and do not crack open at the top; in fact I've had a four-sided 'White Swirl' capsule hanging on the wall since season '71 and it took many months to lose its green and still has not shown any signs of splitting at the seams. Three pods with their tough skins are difficult to open. I use long-nosed pliers, first breaking off the tip and then cracking open the seams, and I found this easiest at the end of August, while the skins are still a bit pliable- but I may add that Currier was shocked that I had even gathered them so soon.

In removing seed from the capsules by this method, I also examined the three seed sections for numbers of seed because of Currier's saying that he pollinates all three stigmas, and I must admit that in these 'White Swirl' capsules, made with its own not-so-viable pollen, there are more seeds in one of the sections, usually, than in either of the other two, and sometimes more than in the other two combined. I am convinced that one-stigma pollination is sufficient for the bearded irises, unless using dubiously viable pollen, and it probably is sufficient for those Siberians which are so viable that they are heavily fruited with pods, for the bumblebees don't visit more than one honeywell that I have noticed; but certainly with 'White Swirl' pollen, or in the case of the tetraploids with fertility not completely established, it would pay off to hit all three. I plan an experiment on this next year, hitting one, two and three stigmas with 'White Swirl' pollen and with a pollen known to be of the utmost in viability.

At any rate, it was a season for learning a lot of important facts. the visit to McEwen's-by-the-sea was super, as reported in the AIS Bulletin, and Bill McGarvey's speech and the rest of the program here, in late

August (also reported in BAIS), are also most interesting and revealing. It is important to know, for instance, that not all plants sold as Red Ensign are from the original clone, and that there is a distinct and important difference in the breeding behavior of distributed clones. Bill believes that most of the pods formed on Siberians are from selfings, and apparently childred of the original by self tend to be much like the parent in appearance but not always in genetic makeup. In fact from this observation of selfing was derived the fatalistic notion that the selfing could not be prevented, a false notion that kept new 'Breaks' in check for a very long time. Apparently the original Red Ensign was a heteromorph which carried a hidden recessive. At any rate, the pink Siberians that Bill has bred from it are incredible. We wonder if he is going to hold out for some further uttermost in perfection before he releases any!

All in all, it is astonishing to see and hear about what's going on in the Siberian world. We're finally off and away, flaunting the answer to "What Kept Them So Long?"

SIBERIAN VARIETAL COMMENTS

Kevin Vaughn

The following Siberians impressed me this year:

Warburton 69A-2- This has to head the list; true sky blue with wide, overlapping petals and wide fringed style arms. Blooms heavily and lasts for ages with its two branches.

'Snow Flare' (Carlson)- Totally different from 'White Swirl' but equally attractive. Flowers are wide and flaring and the branching ensures a long season.

'Claret' (Wiswell)- Bright deep maroon red with showy white signal. Has a branch which is a feat for a red.

'Dreaming Spires' (Brummitt)- deep navy blue with wide overlapping petals, a beautiful clump.

'Deep Shade' (Warburton)- Dark blue-purple with wide blue-white style arms that cover all haft patterns, which makes an especially startling contrast with the self falls.

'Sapphire Bouquet' (Wiswell)- Deepest of the blues, a very intense shade and one that should be in every collection.

'White Swirl' (Cassebeer) and 'Whirl' (Warburton)- Both whites but 'Whirl' is smaller with a definite green-cream tinge; planted near each other the effect is good, like big and little 'White Swirl'.

Varner 1133- This rosy red has a flare I've never seen in reds before and the styles have a very good turquoise midrib.

'Wisteria' (Andrews)- Although old this is still as good as the new ones. The falls are oddly textured, veined deeper over the pale blue flower.

'Mildred Peck' (Spofford)- Perhaps the best of the pale pinks.

Warburton 69E-10- a much bluer version of 'Dreaming Spires' with good

branching.

'June Violet' (Spofford)- This is a true mini in a good shade of violet. Very nice. Two branches. Short stalk.

'Well 1-68'- Very true blue on tall well-branched stalks with three buds in each socket.

'Shadow Lake' (Warburton)- Blue with beautiful fringed styles, and falls blended several shades of blue.

'Joretta' (Carlson)- Very bright and true blue, nice flare.

'Carrie Lee' (Wiswell)- A clump of this pale red in a landscape gives a very fine effect. Close to, it is pale red with a large white signal. Excellent doer.

'Violet Flare' (Cassebeer)- On a one-year clump this put up seven good stalks with those elegant vivid flowers.

'Sky Wings' (Peck)- Although form can't compare with the 'White Swirl' hybrids this is a very pretty pale blue. The clump is especially handsome.

'Ego' (McGarvey)- Medium blue with paler styles, elegant ruffled petals and wide fringed styles.

'Super Ego' (McGarvey)- light blue with falls all over veined deep blue, elegant form. If I had to pick I would sooner have 'Super Ego' than 'Ego'.

'Blue Burn' (McGarvey) and 'Sally Kerlin' (McGown)* both good blues; Sally has more width but BB has the branching.

'Swank' (Hager)- True deep blue with heavy texture veining.

Vaught TP-1- from diluting reds I obtained this good deep pink.

Vaught CWR-1- Rosy orchid with virtually no haft pattern, very bright color and exceptional form.

We Get Questions (Sometimes):

Valera Chenoweth recently asked if someone could explain the differences between 'Caesar's Brother', 'Royal Herald' and 'Seven Seas'. I've grown all three of them and as they grew in my garden I would say that 'Seven Seas' is the darkest violet with relatively little haft marking showing; 'Caesar's Brother' while almost as dark has more haft markings; and 'Royal Herald' is a rather lighter violet than the other two.

In giving descriptions of any Siberians one must remember that, particularly with older varieties, it is always possible that two different descriptions may in fact be descriptions of two different clones which have over the years become intermixed. So far the newest varieties have escaped this, although in view of Bee's report of Bill McGarvey's comment on Royal Ensign which was only introduced 21 years ago, a short time in the career of a Siberian iris, we must face the possibility that some other new ones may possibly be affected. We can no longer cure the damage already done, but we can prevent future occurrences only if all of us both commercial growers and amateurs are very careful to maintain our labeling setup and to remove every seedpod before it can spill one seed. Even a gift should be true to name.

w = I wrote them
✓ = in Jan 73 AIS Bull

SOURCES FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

Sarah Tiffney

These are the sources of which we are currently aware. If you know of others please write me; we would like to include them in our lists.

- ✓ Bay View Gardens (Joseph Ghio) 1201 Bay St., Santa Cruz, Cal. 95060.
Free catalog.
- W - Crooked Creek Gardens, Star Route, Marquand, Missouri 63655. Free cat.
- W - Englerth Gardens, Rt. 2, Hopkins, Mich. 49328
- ✓ Illini Iris (Steve Varner) N. State Street Rd., Monticello, Ill. 61856.
List on request.
- ✓ Imperial Flower Gardens, Box 255, Cornell, Ill. 61319 *send stamps for*
- ✓ Laurie's Garden, 17225 McKenzie Hway. Rte 2, Springfield, Ore. 97447.
Send stamp for list.
- W - Melrose Gardens, 309 Best Road South, Stockton, Cal. 95206. Cat. 25¢
- W - Old Brook Gardens, 10 S. Franklin Circle, Littleton, Colo. 80121; see
ad in AIS Bulletin, April 1972, p. 86.
- Pacific Coast Hybridizers, P.O. Box 972, Campbell, Calif. 95008. Free
catalog.
- ✓ Schreiner's Gardens, 3629 Quinaby Rd. NE, Rt. 2, Salem, Ore. 97303.
catalog 50¢.
- Sierra Vista Iris Garden, 12176 8th St., Yucaipa, Calif. 92399; free
list.
- ✓ Tell's Gardens, P.O. Box 331, Orem, Utah 84057. List 10¢
- W - Walter Marx Gardens, Boring, Ore. 97009; catalog \$1.
- W - White Flower Farms, Litchfield, Conn. 06759. Catalog \$2.
- Dr. and Mrs. Currier McEwen, South Harpswell, Maine 04079; write for
information, and see ad in AIS Bulletin, July 1972, p. 85.
- Bee Warburton, Rt. 2 Box 541, Westboro, Mass. 01581. List on request-
own introductions only.
- Northwest Hybridizers (Cal-Sibes and others): Mrs. Leona Mahood, 11250
1st Ave. NW, Seattle, Wash. 98177, or Mrs. Jean G. Witt, 16516 25th
NE, Seattle, Wash. 98155. List on request.

If you are looking for recent introductions and do not find them, write to their breeders or introducers for information. The names and addresses of these people are in the yearly (January) AIS Registration Lists and also in the hard-cover Check Lists of 1969, 1959 etc.

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In connection with the last paragraph above, the Board of SSI has decided to include in the proposed Siberian Iris Check List the names and addresses of all Siberian hybridizers still living; sources both here and abroad; descriptions of the species and pictures as far as they can be obtained, and as complete a list of Awards won by Siberians as can be obtained, so it will be a little late- like next year?

ROBIN QUOTES: Mostly from Robin 1.

Lorena Reid (Sept. 71)- Have you noticed the differences in size and shape of the seed pods of the various species and named clones of Siberians?.. 'White Swirl' isn't the only one with fat, thick-walled pods; 'Funkhannock' and 'Red Raider' also do..I think 'Caesar' has about the longest pods of any Siberian, though not the skinniest. Then there is 'Looks Mohrish' with skimpy pods only about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and not very fat either...The 40-chromosome species have thinner-walled pods in general than the 28s and tend to be greenish grey when dried rather than brown or blackish..(also easier to get the seeds out of)..I have had to use pliers on some of the biggest 'White Swirl' pods; they're like nuts to crack..even though open at the top, not open far enough to relinquish the seed.

Lillian Bourne (Sept. 71) (Wichita Convention)..On Sat. rode bus..one seat behind Dr. McCarvey...He doesn't let pods develop..ties up his Sibs when pollinating...and when ground is frozen burns them off. I'm going to do it too. Makes between the row cultivation easier.

Phyllis Zezelic (Jan. 72) Last Saturday...I saw some slides of Dr. McEwen's future Siberian introductions...I especially liked a beautiful yellow amoena named 'Dreaming Yellow'. It is similar to 'White Swirl' in form but a beautiful buttery yellow. He has some really beautiful things coming up...He is also working on miniature Siberians.

Francis Brenner (Feb. 72)...If people find out how much easier the Siberians are to handle than the TBs maybe the too too much emphasized TBs will take a back seat.

Lorena Reid (Mar. 72)...We are having quite an early spring this year; many of the Siberian clones are 6-12" high...I ran out of time in Late November...moving pieces of clones...alphabetically...to make a single clone easier to find...so I finished...this spring...though some were already 6" high or more when moved. If we have our usual cloudy, wet spring they should be OK.

(2¢ worth: We'd love to have quotes from any and all Siberian Robins. We might not be able to use all that is sent in the very next issue but I have found in reading the robins I'm in with an eye to what I'd like to cull if I were editing, let's say, the Medianite, that quite a lot of the comments will not be out of date if kept for six months or even a year; and as an editor I believe it would be a blessing to have on hand a few short bits that can fit nicely at the bottom of a 'short' page.

So, Robin Directors, please! Will you extract the informative bits, with the writer's permission, of course, and pass them along to the rest of us? Or if you have an active Robin Editor in your Robin encourage her to do so. Robineers, if something in your letter is NOT for quotation- just initial it ~~RFQ~~ and we'll all understand.)

THE BACK PAGETHE LAST GASP LE DERNIER CRI DE CONJUR.....

This time I actually had too much to put it all in. However we are saving Julius' list of the contents of our Display Gardens for the Spring issue as then it will all be fresh in your minds if you are able to get to one or more of them. -But if we were 'loaded' the greater part of the load landed here after October 1. As Oct. 5, 6, 7 and 10 were Registration Days here in Nassau County, N. Y. and I'm a member of one of the local boards, that meant I didn't really get going until the 11th; I gave two talks to garden clubs, went to a lunch party and caught a cold but here it is the 19th and I'm on page 28! Whoops, m'dears! Now I can do page 1.

Does that sound a little backwards? Well, it isn't. (Boy, am I learning about the oddities of editing.) You can't type up the index until you know on just what page every article will start; and you can't estimate that- you have to type it out. Different typers have different spacings, and handwriting varies from 150 to 300 words to the page. And some people type double-spaced (which is really a blessing as I can then use the space between the lines for whatever editing I may find necessary) while others single-space it, and some leave w-i-d-e margins while others may cram two pages worth onto one sheet.

I hope you have all noticed that there aren't as many errors this time. It isn't that I don't make them; but I've found some means of correcting the worst of them without having to redo the whole page. But I still would greatly appreciate having an assistant editor who can type and who has, preferably, a machine with Elite typeface. Any takers?

Another change which I hope will be an improvement in the overall appearance of the publication is that instead of CAPITALIZING the names of varieties I have put them in 'Quotes' with a capital letter to start. Both forms are acceptable under the Rules of Nomenclature for horticultural or garden varieties. But it struck me that the solid caps were just a bit heavy-looking in the finished publication. We will save the heavy, all-caps typing for words in articles where especially strong emphasis is wanted; slightly less emphasis will get just underlining, as will names of species.

We are planning to make next Spring's issue a special on the general subject of Nomenclature. There will of course be serious articles on the subject but I don't want it to be a heavy issue; so if any of you have any funny stories about (naming the baby'-even if it is not a Siberian-do let us in on it; or if you are puzzled about some of the rules that seem to you to be silly- won't you write me- soon!- and we'll try to get the explanation into one of the articles. But we can't promise to get the rules changed; these are decided upon by an international body of botanists and horticultural specialists and if we want our registrations to be recognized internationally we need to cooperate with them in upholding these rules.

Peq

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