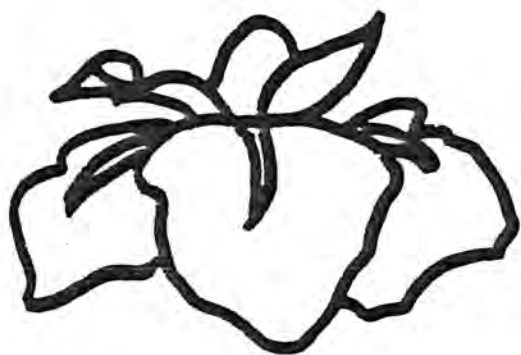
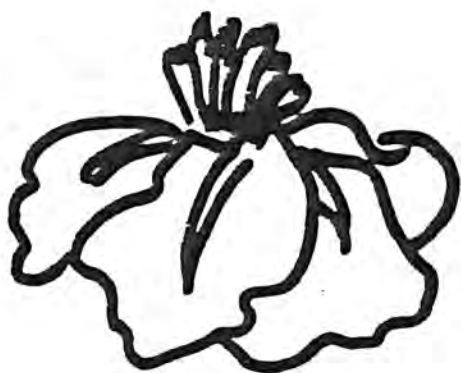


VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

OCTOBER, 1977



# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

THE REVIEW  
OF  
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

Vol. 14, No. 2

October, 1977

Contents

What a Year. . . . .	12
Iris Kaempferi in Japan. . . . .	12
Progress Note on Tetraploidy - 1977. . . . .	14
"Clone". . . . .	15
Lesson '77 . . . . .	15
New Members. . . . .	16
Kalamazoo Japanese Iris Show . . . . .	17
Annual Region 1 Beardless Iris Meeting and Auction . . . . .	18
Annual Meeting of SJI at Memphis Convention. . . . .	18
Japanese Iris Show, Summerville, S.C. . . . .	19
Region 8 Siberian and Japanese Iris Auction. . . . .	20
Rebloomer Reported by Dr. E. Currier McEwen. . . . .	20
<b>Northwest Regional Report</b> -----	21
<b>Midwest Regional Report</b> -----	21
<b>Jl Seeds</b> -----	21
Nominating Committee Report. . . . .	22

Officers

President	Mr. Thornton M. Abell, 469 Upper Mesa Road Santa Monica, Calif. 90402
Vice-President	Mr. Arthur H. Hazzard, 510 Grand Pre Ave., Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007
Secretary	Mr. Harley E. Briscoe, R. 1, White Hall, Ill. 62092
Treasurer	Mr. Ford L. Grant, 2125 Sturdevant Davenport, Ia. 52804
Directors at Large	Mrs. F. W. Warburton, 2 Warburton Lane West Boro, Mass. 01581 Mr. Leonard Jugle, 261 West Grantley Elmhurst, Ill. 60127 Mr. William J. Gunther, 740 Crest Road Del Mar, Calif. 92014

Nominating Committee

Thru 1977	Mrs. Orrin Merrill, New Orchard Road Epsom, NH 03234
Thru 1978	Mrs. Charles E. Kenny, 10325 S. Louisville Ave., Tulsa, Okla. 74135
Thru 1979	Mrs. James A. Copeland, Solf Lake Fish Hatchery, Mattawan, Mich. 49071

Appointments

Editor, The Review	Mr. William E. Oweneel, RR 31, Box 206 Terre Haute, Ind. 47803
Membership Chairman	Mrs. John Harlow, Jr., 5742 E. Waverly, Tucson, Ariz. 85712
Typist	Mrs. Phillip Hembree, 951 Brown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

\* \* \* \* \*

Your Editor apologizes for the late publication of this issue.  
The delay was due to a series of incidents "beyond our control".

## WHAT A YEAR

Instead of tending my iris garden last spring I went to Florence to be one of the judges at the International Iris Competition there. It was an exciting trip. The garden of the Italian Iris Society included an area devoted to Japanese irises that would be fun to see when they bloom. The plants looked promising.

The trouble with going away in late April and staying through May is that I missed all the bearded iris bloom---and then I had to attend a national convention of architects in June so I missed most of the Japanese iris bloom---most unsatisfactory.

The water shortage in California has been a problem. I have watched the Japanese iris and the chrysanthemums but have let the bearded iris and dwarfs be dry. One off-season rain is all the water they have had. Surprisingly, they seem to have done better than usual. There has been no rot and they show good growth, perhaps they like to dry out in summer. The Japanese iris have been watered and they seem to be growing well.

Next year I hope to see the garden when it blooms.

It would be interesting to us all to have more members report on their gardens and on their Japanese iris activities. Please send material to our good editor.

THORNTON M. ABELL, Pres. SJI  
15 September, 1977

## IRIS KAEMPFERI IN JAPAN

Elma Tilley

Editor's note: The following article is reprinted with permission from the Victorian Region Newsletter No. 261, Australian Iris Society. A hectare is about two and a half acres.

The purpose of my visit to Japan was threefold: firstly, to have a holiday, secondly, to meet Atsuko Houda, my penfriend of nearly seven years and thirdly, to see the Japanese Iris Gardens of which I had heard so much.

Atsuko was responsible for my having a wonderful holiday for she either drove me in her car or escorted me on trains and buses to see many interesting places and to view the most famous iris gardens. The iris season in central and southern Japan commences in the first week of June and lasts until the end of the month when the rainy season begins in July; but in northern Japan in Haikrado, there is no rainy season, the climate is cooler and the iris bloom later and

are at their peak in the middle of July. I was fortunate in that I was able to see iris bloom from June 12th until July 20th when I left Japan for home.

My first glimpse of Iris Kaempferi in Japan was in Atsuko's own iris plot in front of her home in Kagawa, approximately sixty miles south of Tokyo where she had several outstanding seedlings of her own hybridising. Two of her seedlings impressed me very much---a magnificent purplish red and a blush pink. These two will probably be tested in a nursery before naming them. These iris grow much taller in Japan than they do in Australia and the blooms are a little larger.

The first iris I saw en masse was at the entrance to the Samukawa Shrine not far from Atsuko's home, but these were soon outclassed by the display at Mr. and Mrs. Meiku's nursery at Isemahara, some few miles from Kagawa. On this particular day I was with Atsuko while she was helping her friends select the different varieties and packing them in plastic bags with peatmoss, labelled with their appropriate names prior to taking them for display and hopefully sale at a department store the following day.

The Japanese Iris Society does not hold Iris Shows, and so the only means the public has of seeing the newest iris is to attend one of these department store exhibitions or else visit the few iris nurseries, which are quite some miles apart. We attended this colorful display in Tokyo, and I only wished that quarantine regulations had not barred me from purchasing some of these beautiful iris. Iris are very expensive in Japan and in Australian currency would be as much as \$20 and \$30 each. Later this same day I visited the famous Meiji Jingu Shrine gardens in Tokyo. Each year, thousands of people visit these gardens to see the iris in bloom. There were long curved beds massed with iris, set amongst very picturesque surroundings of lakes, bridges and beautiful maple trees with their light green foliage.

On the last weekend of my holiday in Japan, we flew to Sapporo in northern Japan. It was a glorious sunny day and here we visited the 180 hectare property "Chestnut Forest" owned by a wealthy Japanese now 81 years old, Mr. Motojiro Kuribayashi. Of this vast property 10 hectares were under iris cultivation. It was hard to believe that I was standing amongst all these wonderful blooms, but there they were in all their glory---row upon row of them and all neatly labeled. Amongst these iris were some of the latest American hybrids, but in my opinion they were not as good in form or substance as some of the seedlings I had seen at the two nurseries previously mentioned. The iris that appealed to me most out of this huge collection was a dwarf variety, pink and white, growing no more than 18" high, called Gosan-no-Takara (meaning five petals, three petals and a treasure). Each plant had flowers of three petals and five petals and was just covered with bloom. This variety would make a most attractive edging to a herbaceous border.

My ambition to see Iris Kaempferi growing in their native habitat was achieved and I left Japan very contented, mostly due to the generosity and hospitality of my pen friend Atsuko Honda.



## PROGRESS NOTE ON TETRAPLOIDY - 1977

Dr. E. Currier McEwen

Once again Bill Ouweneel has asked me for a progress note regarding my tetraploid Japanese irises; so, at the risk of telling a tale too often, I will give a brief report about the 1977 season. Those who have read my previous notes (1-4) will know that, whereas I have had colchicine-induced tetraploids and chimeras for a number of years, crosses made with them either failed or gave only diploids until 1975. In that year five second-generation tetraploid sister seedlings bloomed ( $T_2 73/9$ ) (1-5) but were far from impressive although of use for breeding. In 1976 one more ( $T_2 73/5$ ) bloomed and showed improvement although I was still unsure that tetraploidy in Japanese irises would offer the advantages that it has in tall bearded irises, Siberians and other plants. However, the experience of this past season has been encouraging.

One new second generation tetraploid bloomed ( $T_2 75/3$ ) from a cross of two induced tetraploids involving Garden Caprice and several seedlings. This one is quite impressive. It is a large, three-petaled flower basically white but splashed with red at the outer third of the falls. The latter are wide with a great substance and crispness. In addition several third generation seedlings from crosses of the ugly sisters mentioned above were distinctly better than their parents although still not impressive.

Among new induced tetraploids blooming for the first time were several three-petaled flowers: one wide dark blue with extremely velvety texture, another pure white with only a few green lines instead of a signal patch, another a jaunty flower closely veined red and a fourth one of large size, very ruffled with sanded blue falls and violet standards edged lighter. Among the 6-petaled flowers was a white of fine form with unobtrusive signal patches more green than yellow. Another, from a seedling x Frostbound, was a sectorial chimera in which the tetraploid flowers were crisper and more vivid in color than the diploid ones but not significantly larger.

This 1977 experience makes it clear, I believe, that tetraploidy increases the substance of the flowers and makes the colors richer. As a result the flowers have a crisp and lively appearance which I find attractive. Whether the tetraploid state is responsible for the unobtrusive greenish signal patches in several of the white ones, or whether this occurred in them purely by genetic chance I do not know but suspect the latter.

Of the 60 odd crosses made this year, about two thirds were tetraploid, many of which have resulted in pods of healthy appearance. Hence I am expecting a steadily increasing number of second and third generation tetraploids. Furthermore my breeding stock of superior diploids has been greatly enlarged this year through the generous help of Art Hazzard, Dr. Hirao, Bill Ouweneel and Adolph Vogt. As a result I look forward to having an increasing number of seedlings of high quality for treatment with colchicine in the next few years which, I trust, will be reflected in steady improvement in the resulting tetraploids.

## References

1. McEwen, C. Efforts to Induce Tetraploidy in Japanese Irises. The Review. Vol. 8, number 1, page 9 (April 1971)
2. ----- 1972 Tetraploidy Report. The Review. Vol. 10, number 1, page 8 (April 1973).
3. ----- Further Report on Efforts to Induce Tetraploidy in Japanese Irises. The Review. Vol. 11, number 1, page 3 (April 1974)
4. ----- Tetraploidy - 1976 Experience. The Review, Vol. 13, number 2, page 28 (October 1976).

## "CLONE"

The word "clone" is occasionally seen used as a synonym for clump or variety. The word is not a horticultural term but a genetic one.

Starting with a seedling, and barring mutations, all divisions arising out of that seedling and its divisions, taken together, constitute a clone. The members of a clone are all of those plants that have the same genetic heritage. A geneticist would say they have the same genotype.

The word "clone" is used for plants and animals. With plants, again barring mutations, it is the equivalent of the horticultural term "variety".

The September, 1977, issue of Scientific American, starting on page 57, has a book review which describes the production of mice each of which has four parents and belongs to two clones. It is accomplished by taking two embryos while they consist of about eight cells each, intermingling them and planting the mass in the uterus of a foster-mother mouse. In due course a mouse is born which is physically normal except that different tissues belong to one of the two clones represented by the two original embryos before intermingling.

## LESSON '77

W. E. Ouweneel

In 1976 I received from Japan two *Pseudacorus* x *JI* hybrids--- Ueki's Kimboshi and Oosugi's Aichi no Kagayaki, which George W. Park Seed Co., Inc., was selling as Golden Queen. Knowing that such hybrids are likely to be deficient in chlorophyll, they were planted and treated with special care---the first shaded in pots

and the second shaded in beds. In fall all were transferred to a new bed with JIs.

Early in April, '77, while checking the beds for first signs of growth, I was surprised to see the hybrids standing three or four inches above the mulch while surrounding JIs were just showing tips of green leaves. However, the hybrids were ghostly yellow like plants grown in the dark. For the next six weeks they seemed to be struggling for survival. The leaves turned straw-color starting at the tips and eventually dried and died. New leaves appeared to replace the dying and late in May the plants had a hopeful appearance. During this period they were watered by hand because of a drought and fertilized with fertilizer solution. Both varieties had leaves about ten inches long. Aichi no Kagayaki leaves were about a quarter-inch wide while those of Kimboshi were a half-inch wide.

In July a hot humid spell arrived. Rainfall was above normal so no hand watering was done, but the plants were fertilized with solution. Temperatures rose to the mid nineties daily for several weeks. After the first week the leaves on both varieties died down, apparently from the heat, just as they had done in April.

I have a color photograph from Japan showing several stalks of Aichi no Kagayaki in an arrangement with JIs. That and Dr. Hirao's comments on Uegi's Kimboshi in the April, 1972, issue of THE REVIEW indicate that the hybrids are worth growing. In view of my '77 experience I am inclined to believe that Japan's more moderate climate, at least compared with Hoosier '77 weather, makes the difference. I hope to learn surely later.

The winter of 1976-1977 should settle for all time any question about the hardiness of JIs in the Northern States and Southern Canada. In Terre Haute we had three nights with minus 20 degree Fahrenheit or lower and at least a week of continuous subzero nights. The ground was frozen three feet deep. No damage resulted either in the beds in clay in field conditions or in muck around the edge of the pond.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members of the SJI:

Mrs. H. B. Roberson  
Rt. 1, Box 37  
Chula, Ga. 31733

Mr. James Cope  
307 Goldsborough St.  
Easton, Md. 21601

Mrs. Marlene Ahlburg  
Hohesfeld 22  
3171 Rotgesbuttall  
West Germany

Miss Cathie Paull  
Route 5, Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Carbondale, Ill. 62901



Mr. Robert R. Flaherty  
24 N. 313 McHenry  
Lake Zurich, Ill. 60047

Mrs. Margie Malone  
6057 Shoup Ave.  
Woodland Hills, Calif. 91367

## KALAMAZOO JAPANESE IRIS SHOW

Ronald Miller, Chairman

"Kalamazoo Direct to You" was the title of the fourth AIS approved Japanese Iris show presented by the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society on June 25, 1977, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The show was staged around the Dandelion Fountain in the Westmain Mall, which provided an attractive background for the specimens and arrangements.

The show was dedicated to Mr. Arthur Hazzard, a well-known hybridizer of Japanese irises, who lives in Kalamazoo and, at the age of 92, is a very active member of the local society. The arrangement classes were named after some of Mr. Hazzard's introductions.

Fifty four named specimens of Japanese irises were entered by 12 exhibitors. Leland Welsh's entry of The Great Mogul was judged to be Queen of the Show. Entries of Prairie Foralpha, Sokituzu, Gay Gallant, Strut and Flourish, Prairie Want, and Prairie Forbeta were on the Queen's Court. Arthur Hazzard was awarded the Silver Medal and Mrs. Jill Copeland the Bronze Medal.

Mrs. Jill Copeland's seedling numbered 77-006 was, in the minds of the judges, Best Seedling in Show. It had plenty of competition from 36 other seedlings that were entered by five hybridizers.

Mrs. Anna Mae Miller's entry in the Prairie Love Song class in the arrangement section was awarded Best Arrangement, while Mr. Bernard Jones took the Sweepstakes with the most blues.

The specimens and seedlings were judged by a panel of judges headed by Olin Rawdon of Adron, Ohio. Mrs. Esther Christiansen of Kalamazoo was the judge of arrangements.

The Battle Creek chapter of Ikebana did a great deal to enhance the beauty of the show with a large number of Japanese-type flower arrangements.

Over 600 visitors viewed the show, including guests from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Ohio. The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society is already making plans to hold a Japanese Iris Show in 1978.



## ANNUAL REGION 1 BEARDLESS MEETING AND AUCTION

The annual beardless iris meeting and auction was held at Bee Warburton's in Westboro, Mass., on August 28. Covered dishes were brought by those living within driving range and the Warburtons served their famous home-grown buttered sugar-corn. Drinks also were furnished by the Warburtons.

Beardless iris subjects of the meeting included Siberian, Japanese, Spurias, Louisianas, versicolors, cristatas and prismaticas. Currier McEwen spoke about the lesser known types and others showed slides of their favorites.

Currier also auctioneered the JIs. He provided most of them, which included named varieties and tetraploid seedlings. The SJI realized over \$200 from the auction.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SJI AT AIS CONVENTION IN MEMPHIS

May 1, 1977

The meeting of the SJI, a section of the AIS, was held May 1, 1977, at 12 noon in the Dunster Room of the Holiday Inn, Rivermont, Memphis, Tenn., during the AIS Convention. Seventeen members of the SJI were at the Convention. Eighty one interested irisarians attended the SJI meeting. It was chaired by Art Hazzard, who substituted for the SJI President, Thornton M. Abell.

As the Dunster Room had not been rescheduled, we all sat back and enjoyed an interesting and educational meeting. One of the discussions was by Dr. McEwen on colchicine treatment of JIs. It was interesting to me to hear that both tetraploid and diploid bloom could show up on the same plant. I had always thought that it would end up being either one or the other depending on whether it worked or not. Tetraploidy will increase bloom size and substance.

Tony Willet showed some beautiful slides of JIs. Adolph Vogt had slides of his "hospital and seedling beds". Mr. Vogt's article on this subject was written up in a recent AIS Bulletin, but his talk on the construction of it along with the slides made it seem a lot easier to do. Some of the JI seedlings he brought to Lansing, Michigan, show he is doing something right, as they were beautiful.

Mr. Hazzard discussed use of cottonseed meal as a JI fertilizer, the use of sulphur as an acidifier and the use of azalea fertilizer for JIs. He mentioned that overfertilization will increase the size of the plants above normal and that fertilizing just prior to bloom season may result in soft buds. Mr. Hazzard and Mr. Vogt discussed mice and borers, both of which like JIs. Cygon was suggested for borers.

Mr. Hazzard discussed the following do's and don'ts:

<u>Do's</u>	<u>Don'ts</u>
Look for:	Avoid
Good color contrast	Wide spaces between petals
Broad range in height	Overly long hafts
Good form	Unclean colors
Increased number of branches	Signal patches not clearly defined
Good proportions	
Durability of bloom	All blooms opening at once

Mr. Hazzard's slides of his yard, seedlings and named varieties were very impressive. Leonard Jugle operated the projector, which was not an easy task. Many brought their slides in their own trays, and Mr. Jugle had to transfer the slides to trays which worked in the projector. He remained "unruffled" and did a good job.

Thank you for a very enjoyable meeting. I'm a newcomer in the field of growing JIs and was "roped" into taking notes.

MRS. WELLS E. BURTON

#### JAPANESE IRIS SHOW

Summerville, S. C., June 4 and 5, 1977

The following report is based on information provided by Mrs. Wells E. Burton, RVP, AIS Region V:

On Saturday evening, June 4, 22 persons attended a JI Judges' training meeting.

On June 5 the tour started with breakfast being served in the Burtons' garden. The tour then proceeded to the Meadow Lake Gardens in Hendersonville, S.C. (seven acres of JIs and Hems), where a buffet lunch was provided, the Wittcamps' garden, and then the Grimsleys' gardens in Summerville. An evening banquet was held at 5 p.m., followed by a "very good talk on JIs by Adolph Vogt of Kentucky."

The show was attended by people from Atlanta, Hales, and Milledgeville in Georgia and numerous places in South Carolina---the total being approximately 70. The show included 56 JI specimens, mostly seedlings, and 19 arrangements. There were 14 exhibitors. The schedule included 22 classes. Royal Pageant entered by John Wood won Best of Show. Evening Episode was runner-up. Kathleen Plyler won Best Junior Arrangement and Steven Vincent Best Horticultural Entry. An iris auction was held and door prizes were awarded. An educational exhibit included seeds, books, posters and iris art work. Mrs. Burton won the arrangement and sweepstakes awards.

## REGION 8 SIBERIAN AND JI AUCTION

In a letter to Thornton M. Abell, President, SJI, Julius Wedekamper, RVP, Region 8, reports in part as follows:

"Dear Thornton:

We held an auction of Siberian and Japanese irises at my place (Elk River, Minn.) on Sept. 11. The enclosed check represents 100% of the proceeds from the sale of Japanese irises at the auction.

We hope it will be helpful to the Society for Japanese irises."

A check for \$98.50 was enclosed. Thornton Abell has acknowledged receipt of the check and sent a letter of appreciation to Julius Wedekamper.

## REBLOOMER REPORTED BY DR. E. CURRIER McEWEN

Under date of October 3, 1977, Dr. McEwen, who lives in South Harpswell, Maine, reports as follows:

"Yesterday I was surprised to find a Japanese iris in bloom, a nice dark violet-blue 6-petaled flower with a faint pattern of what I call the marbled type. It had rebloomed already in August and now again. It had been dug up and replanted in late August, so perhaps this second rebloom is related to that. I'll watch it in the future to see what it does. Its number is RJ 73/18 (6) - R stands for rebloomer - and it is from Star at Midnight x Garden Caprice.

"Garden Caprice rebloomed this year (rebloom after a short rest period as I described it in my last letter). I used Garden Caprice a lot in my crosses 4-6 years ago because it was one of the few named ones I had (bought at our Beardless Auction about 1970) and perhaps that is why so many of my seedlings rebloom.

"Rebloom in my garden has, however, been less consistent than with Siberians. Some years many rebloom and in others only a few of the same plants do. But as I remarked in my last letter I believe the tendency can be steadily enhanced by selective breeding. Anyway, I'm trying.

Sincerely,  
Currier"

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL REPORT

Lorena M. Reid

What a year we have had!! Although we had streams of visitors (frequently during meal hours) through the Japanese Irises, when they were in bloom, I did not find time for a single varietal note. Coping alone. . .with an 11 year old helper. . .with weeding on the entire 2½ acres; and a husband who decided that, after all, weekends were for gadding about (I do have to admit the camping, crabbing, clamming gadabouts were most enjoyable); left little time for note taking.

The firm impression is, though, that the Japanese Irises fared far better than most other beardless types in this dryer and hotter than usual summer here in the Northwest. They managed good size and quantity of bloom on the bare 1" of irrigation per week. . . though plants were perhaps 6" or more shorter than usual.

When digging began in early to mid-August (in the middle of a 90+° dry spell), the clumps were frequently powder dry in the centers (a watering can carried about with the spading fork helped offset the disturbance of the clump), yet new white roots were plentiful and shoots were sturdy, giving good promise of growth! There has been no rebloom this year, however.

Rains are back with us now, so the outlook is good for next year!

## MIDWEST REGIONAL REPORT

Adolph Vogt

Marthela Shoemake, Nicoma Park, OK., provided a JI slide and lecture program for the Sooner State Iris Society on September 23. Thanks, Marthela, for creating interest in growing JIs in Oklahoma. We need more people growing them and our Society needs more members.

Congratulations to "Ginny" Burton (RVP, Region 5) and George Wood (President of the local Society) for a beautiful JI show and garden tour. The JI show was held at Summerville, SC, on June 4. It was the first show in the area. With the flowers displayed and the interest shown, I predict that this will rapidly become a JI-growing area. The soil and moisture are favorable and the enthusiasm should make a show an annual event.

## JI SEEDS

Your Editor has about 125 JI seeds, parentage unknown, which he will divide equally as of **March** 1 among all persons requesting some.



New Orchard Road  
Epsom, N.H. 03234  
October 25, 1977

Mr. Thornton M. Abell, President  
The Society for Japanese Iris  
469 Upper Mesa Road  
Santa Monica, Cal. 90409

Dear Mr. Abell:

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Society, the Nominating Committee nominates all the present Directors at Large to serve for the next term of two years.

Mrs. F. W. Warburton Warburton Lane Westboro, Mass. 01581

Mr. Leonard Jugle 261 W. Grantley Elmhurst, Ill. 60126

Mr. W. J. Gunther 440 Crest Road Del Mar, Cal. 92014

These candidates have all given their consent.

To serve as a member of the Nominating Committee for a term of three years, the Nominating Committee presents:

Mr. Leland M. Welsh 1003 Newton Court Kalamazoo, Mich. 49008

He has given his consent, and will replace Mrs. Orrin Merrill whose term expires this year.

Yours truly,

*Janet K. Merrill*

Janet K. Merrill, Chairman

Nominating Committee