

The border against the curved wall is the principal horticultural feature of that part of the garden. There, Siberian as well as tall bearded irises were growing, together with other plants. It is an informal planting in a geometric frame, with the wall and the lawn edge defining the boundaries. The garden gives the visitor a great sense of peace. There is variety in the planting but it does not intrude in the design; there is much to interest the plantsman but he is not constantly beckoned to admire it.

New named irises and guest plants were in a smaller area of raised ground, up the steps to one side of the main garden. There, a number of beds were cut into the grass, and roses and irises, all named and labeled, were growing. Cliff Benson's frilly MISS DOLLY DOLLARS was putting on a fine show.

As we left the Milliken garden we passed several old friends, the glamour girls of conventions past: OLA KALA, PRETTY QUADROON, TRULY YOURS, SOUTH PACIFIC, and TALL CHIEF.

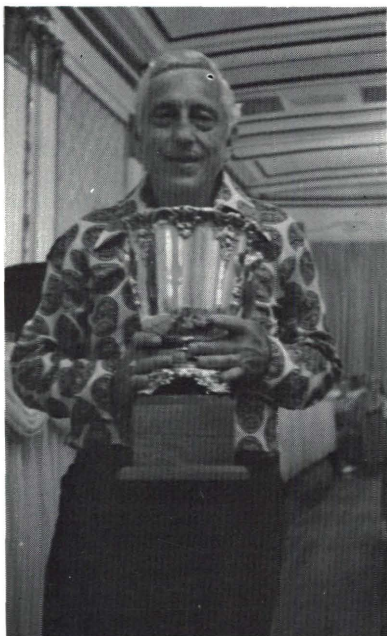
TUESDAY EVENING: The Awards Banquet

The key word for this event was "hot." Those of us not used to humidity without air conditioning were shedding as much fancy dress as the occasion would allow. Perhaps in recognition of that, the ceremonies were kept short and sweet.

Following annual tradition, last year's awards were dispensed from the head table to beaming recipients called up from the crowd. Because of the lateness of this convention, Norman Noe who represented AIS at the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy, was able to announce the tall bearded results to us (Premio Firenze went to Ghio's DIALOGUE; full details will appear in October). Former AIS President Hubert Fischer told us of the interest in tall bearded irises in Japan and that he was soliciting seeds from good varieties to send to the Japanese as encouragement (see "An Appeal for Seeds" on page XX). And then came the moment we'd been awaiting.

Ballots for the President's Cup (for the favorite in-region iris origination) and the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup (for favorite out-of-region variety) were to be deposited no later than 5 p.m. That gave the "counting committee" barely two hours to tabulate results for presentation. To tease us, the announcement began with the fourth runner-up, then the third, then second; tension mounted as one strong contender after another fell by the wayside. And then we knew: Bob Mallory's QUEEN OF FLORENCE—newly introduced but already last year's Premio Firenze choice. In similar cliff-hanging fashion was the Cook Cup announced, working up to a deserving winner, Jack Boushay's BLUSHING LEMON.

From Tennessee, Quay Bauman stepped forward to urge us all to experience Southern Hospitality, Memphis-style, at next year's convention. And then—it was over. Over except for the well-deserved congratulations that engulfed the convention committee members.



At the Awards Banquet. *Top left*—Bob Mallory carries off President's Cup. *Top right*—Jack Boushay with Franklin Cook Memorial Cup. *Lower left*—Nate Rudolph and his Dykes Medal. *Lower right*—Quay Bauman invites all to attend Memphis in 1977.

