

## Irises Blooming Inside Now Common Sight

Irises blooming in the house may seem strange, but the house iris or Neomarica, which is blooming now through around mid-April, was a popular house plant during the Victorian period, say staff members at the N. C. Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The plant has many names, including walking iris and the 12 apostles plant. The latter name reflects the 12 leaves in each fan, or what might be considered a stem. A single plant or fan may bear as many as seven successive blooms in as many as 20 days.

Much of the interest in apostles plants is in watching the buds develop and open. The blooms develop on a single leaf. The flower bud starts as a swelling about three inches from the leaf tip. A pointed sheath stands up from the leaf tip and the flower stalk develops a small, white tube, composed of the tightly-wound white sepals. The bud unfurls suddenly and the bloom seems to almost pop open. Each flower lasts only one day.

The fragrance is pleasant, and the bloom is a dainty iris-shape, with white sepals and purple standards. Six more flowers will emerge individually, as the first fades at the leaf tip.

The plant is easy to grow in the Carolinas and surrounding states. Although the house iris is not as hardy outdoors in North Carolina as it is in Florida, Texas and California, it does well inside. As much sun as possible is optimal, although the plants have been successfully grown in a west window with a curtain. The house iris grows naturally in water or at the water's edge and thrives in moist, but not soggy, soil with an average fertilization schedule. It also seems to do better in a pot.

Giving house iris plants to friends does not necessarily involve separating the fans that have grown in the pot, although the process can be done when the container gets too crowded. After blooming, a plantlet will develop at the site of blooming on the leaf tip. If the Neomarica is kept outside in the summer, the plantlets will develop roots in the soil, where the leaf has tipped over and touched the ground. Even if roots have not developed yet, it is possible to remove the plantlet and root it in water.



Members of the Macon Woman's Club and their guests are shown at this 1956 meeting held in the home of Mrs. Clara Shaw. Shown, left to right, front row, are Mrs. Anna Thompson, Mrs. Eunice Hilliard, Mrs. Sallie Harris, Mrs. Mamie King. On second row are Mrs. Clara Shaw, Mrs. Hope Williams, Mrs. Margery Drake, Mrs. Mamie

Russell, Miss Ellie Nicholson. On third row are Mrs. Jessie Harris, Mrs. Val Alston Bell, Miss Carrie Brame, Mrs. Ida Drake, Mrs. Louise Rowan, Miss Helen Thompson, Miss Margaret Alston. On fourth row are Mrs. Janie Shearin and Mrs. Lena Loyd.

## Macon Woman's Club Is Oldest Civic Club In Warren County

The Macon Woman's Club (known originally as the Macon Community Club) was organized in April of 1915 and has been in continuous operation since that time, making it the oldest civic club in Warren County.

The charter president of the organization was Mrs. Cora Phelps, whose matchless leadership and unflinching interest helped to make the club a successful one.

The Macon Woman's Club did much to beautify the Macon School, including the purchase of drapes for the rostrum in the auditorium there. The Macon Woman's Club also placed a marker at Nathaniel Macon's Grave, and has done much to beautify and make the Macon community a better place in which to live.

In 1940, the club purchased Greenwood Cemetery, a non-denominational community cemetery. For 40 years, it has been the main—though certainly not the only—project of the club in its continuing effort to be of service to the community.

The Macon Woman's Club also owns the Rodwell Tract in the center of Macon, an area which contains many beautiful shrubs. The club has also planted a number of crepe myrtle trees along the town's streets.

In May of 1966, the Macon Woman's Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. A highlight of the event was the presentation of a pin to Mrs. E. H. Russell, the only surviving charter member of the club.

In 1967, the Macon Woman's Club initiated a new project that continues today: the awarding of the Ellie Nicholson Scholarship in

memory of a respected local educator and club member. The \$100 scholarship has been presented annually to a graduate of Warren County High School or Warren Academy in recognition of scholastic achievement and personal attributes, as well as those goals which reflect the bright new future the youth of today will make tomorrow for the community and for the country.

In 1976—the bicentennial year—the Macon Woman's Club placed a marker in the town of Macon to commemorate its 60th year as a federated club and the beginning of the town. Also saluted was Nathaniel Macon, for whom the town was named.

The Macon Woman's Club participates in most district and state projects of local interest. Each of the six departments in the club conducts a program during the year.

Guided by its theme—"Working for a Better Community"—the Macon Woman's Club strives to continue its record of service.

### Protein Research

Proteins are the staff of life, nurturing animal tissues to grow and, if necessary, heal.

In seminal research being carried out by a Los Alamos National Laboratory scientist, the mystery of what makes these complex compounds perform their functions may be solved.

## New Pastor Begins Duties

(Continued from page 2B)

Today, the congregation of Macon Baptist Church continues to thrive with a comprehensive program which includes: the Macon Youth for Christ, the Baptist Men's Group, the Woman's Missionary Union, the Royal Ambassadors, the Girls In Action, a strong Sunday School and three choirs. Worship services and Sunday School are conducted each Sunday.

During the two-and-one-half year pastorate of the Rev. Steve King, who left Macon Baptist Church in 1988 to ready himself for a life of missionary work in Argentina, interest in an outreach program, which supersedes the local bounds of the town, was begun. For eight days in the summer of 1988, four teenagers and 18 adult members visited the Island of Trinidad as participants in a Baptist Mission trip. But back on the home front, the outreach continues as the congregation alternates with the newly-formed Lake Gaston Baptist Church in coordinating a devotional service each Sunday at Warren Plaza Rest Home. At Christmas, carols are sung in the community and, on each Tuesday and Thursday evening, a witnessing program, aimed at visiting the "lost," sick and bereaved is conducted.

In this, the centennial month and year of the birth of the Town of Macon, the Rev. Larry Hornbuckle will begin his pastorate, after being called to serve on Feb. 26. From that nucleus begun in 1891, the tradition of faith, worship and outreach will continue for many years to come.

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David Proctor, district supervisor and staking engineer, is shown at left in front of the Macon Office of Halifax EMC. With him are Warren County directors Richard H. Greene and Leon Williams (right).

## The Cooperative and the Community

Halifax Electric Membership Corporation is a cooperative...a locally-owned electric co-op which has been providing reliable electric service for over 50 years to communities in Halifax, Martin, Nash, and Warren Counties.

In each community the cooperative members elect leaders to direct their co-op. Together, with the community, the cooperative forms a network of hands, hearts, and minds working for the people.

As Macon celebrates its centennial, so Halifax EMC celebrates its 50 years of service to the people in the surrounding community.

Together, we're building cooperation...a power in the land.

Congratulations Macon on Your Centennial!

From a grateful community participant

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