



Members of the Kirton Horticultural Society enjoy a coffee break during their tour of McMillen's Iris Gardens on Monday.

McMillan gardens a rural attraction

BY GRACE ROBERTS

NEWARK (C) - The beautiful Iris gardens at the McMillen dairy farm on the 5th Concession of North Norwich Township are attracting scores of admiring visitors, during the month of June.

John and Gloria McMillen the young husband and wife team, who grow these lovely flowers, can be justly proud of their hobby.

Although he has always been interested in flowers and gardening, it was only about six years ago that John started in the growing of iris, with a few varieties, and from that small beginning, he now has over an acre containing approximately 600 varieties.

On Monday afternoon of this week several bus loads, over 125 people, from the Kirton Horticultural Society toured the McMillen gardens. After viewing the iris the guests were served refreshments by Gloria.

Another bus tour from the Georgian Bay area is expected later this week. The furthest away visitors recorded was Mr. Lloyd Zurbrigg of Virginia U.S., a well known hybridizer and formerly of Listowel.

The McMillens have shipped iris to every province in Canada from coast to coast.

John noted that at present their hobby is just breaking even financially. This year he is adding 52 new varieties and hopes it will eventually become a paying proposition.

John is a member of the Woodstock Horticulture Society and last week sponsored the first iris show in Woodstock, in which there were 63 exhibits.

The annual Canadian Iris Show was held in Hamilton on Sunday, and the McMillen iris were very successful competitors. Of the 11 varieties exhibited, they won three firsts, three seconds and three thirds.

On the weekend of June 4 to 6th, John and Gloria attended the annual convention of the American Iris Society, held in Lansing, Michigan. While there they toured some 15 iris gardens in the area.

Visitors are always welcome at the McMillen farm, and not

only will they see the iris, but also peonies, beautiful roses and other varieties of flowers.

John will be happy to answer all your questions and give you information on the various

types of iris, and the names of hybridizers in this part of Ontario



John McMillen points out some of the qualities of his iris collection to some of the members of Kirton Horticultural Society.

July 1976

Boy killed in Burgessville

Nine-year-old Wayne Martin VanRavenswaay, RR 1, Burgessville, died instantly Friday afternoon when he rode his bicycle into the path of a dump truck on Highway 59. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett VanRavenswaay.

The accident occurred three-quarters of a mile east of Holbrook. Driver of the truck, David William Lee, of Courland, received minor injuries when he swerved his loaded gravel truck off the highway in an attempt to avoid the boy.

Provincial police said the boy had ridden his bicycle out of a private driveway into the path of the eastbound truck. His body was thrown about 100 feet from the impact point.

Mr. Lee swerved his truck off

the road, trying to miss the young cyclist, crossed a lawn, went over a raised driveway and the vehicle then nose-dived into a second lawn. It received about \$7,000 damage. The truck was owned by R.T. McPherson Paving Co., of Norwich.

Corner Dr. R.M. Hall of Norwich pronounced the victim

dead at the scene.

The accident occurred at 4:50 p.m and was investigated by OPP Constable Helga Sparks.

- Our grocery list of '41.
- Coffee - 1 lb. 32c.
- Flour - 7 lb. gab, 30c.
- Libbys Pork and Beans - 21 oz. tin 9c.
- Clarks peanut butter - 24 oz. jar 25c.
- Pure Clover Honey - 4 lb. tin 59c.
- Pure Strawberry Jam - 16 oz. jar 27c.