

November 22, 1975

History of the Iris Garden, Cedar Brook Park Plfd.

The Iris Garden located in Cedar Brook Park Plainfield N.J. was started by a member of the American Iris Society, Mrs. Harriette Rice Holloway, also a member of the Plainfield Garden Club, who felt there should be an Iris Garden in Plainfield. Because of the immediately cordial response of Mr. Richmond Tracy, engineer & Secretary of the Union County Park Commission it was not difficult to secure their interest and agreement to have such a garden in Cedar Brook Park, one of their units.

The Plainfield Garden Club was told of the plan, invited to cooperate, and the invitation promptly accepted in May 1932.

The Plainfield Garden Club - all through the years - has contributed funds with which to purchase plants and a working committee is drawn from its membership.

The Union County Commission carries the responsibility for spraying, any other special activity, and the very heavy load of labor for weeding, fertilizing and helping with transplanting.

At the time of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary May 1957, the Park Commission placed a boulder at the entrance to the Garden and affixed to it a bronze Tablet given by the Plainfield Garden Club.

This Iris Garden was established in 1932, with aid from officials of the American Iris Society.

by the Plainfield Garden Club and the Union County Park Commission.

Among the thousands of varieties planted when the Garden was established were large quantities from the New York Botanical Garden through its then Curator - Mrs. Wheeler Peckham, and a sizeable amount from Miss Holloway's own garden.

Though the garden has been reduced in size & number of beds in recent years, starting in early May & continuing through July, there still remains a remarkable display of many varieties & colors of tall and dwarf bearded, Japanese and Siberian Iris.

The Garden is open for all to wander through and can also be seen & enjoyed from several drive-ways through the Park.