Amanita Phalloides Victim Gets Transplant
Robert W. Steward, Los Angeles Times, with updates from Larry Stickney

An Oakland, California, woman who shared a gourmet meal of wild mushrooms picked by a companion was in critical condition at the UCLA Medical Center following a liver transplant that appears to have saved her life. The case is the second in the nation in which surgeons have replaced a liver to treat a life-threatening case of mushroom poisoning, one expert said.

The man who ate the mushrooms with the young woman was in serious condition as UCLA doctors monitored him to see if he, too, would need the complex transplant surgery. Both persons ate one mushroom each.

Cynthia Zheng, 19, who received a new liver January 6, and Wilhelm Winter, 45, also of Oakland, mistakenly picked the lethal Amanita phalloides January 1 near Inverness in Marin County, a health official said. The two were guided by the Eastern European man, who believed the large skirt and large cap (never mind the lack of brown gills, which must have been obvious) pointed to Agaricus augustus. The victims did have a field guide, but according to Larry Stickney of the San Francisco Mycological Society were not members of a mushroom club.

Zheng appeared at the emergency room of Highland Hospital in Oakland the next morning, complaining of abdominal cramps, nausea, and diarrhea. After the mushroom sample she brought with her was identified as A. phalloides, her companion, who had not yet become ill, was called to the hospital and later began showing symptoms of poisoning. Zheng and Winter were flown to UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles for treatment.

Although they came in for treatment less than 24 hours later after ingesting the mushrooms, doctors at UCLA felt a liver transplant was better than treatment with Bastien citric acid materials or thiocitic acid. Dr. Robert Benjamin of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency said the fatality rate among those who eat Amanita phalloides is between 30% and 50%.

According to Stickney, some unusual A. phalloides specimens have been showing up this year that are bright Kelly green.

Penicillin and History
Wisconsin Mycological Society Newsletter

Ever since its discovery, penicillin has been acknowledged as a miracle drug. First available in the 1940's, this antibiotic has changed the history of medical treatment of bacterial infections. Penicillin is produced by a rather ordinary looking, green colored mold -- members of the genus commonly appear on oranges, bread, cheeses, and other foods, but its discovery involved an interesting series of coincidences.

In the 1870's a Scotsman saved the life of a British nobleman's son, who had become dangerously mired in a bog. As a reward, the nobleman offered the Scotsman money, but he refused. The Scotsman also had a son, and instead he requested that the nobleman educate his son. The nobleman agreed.

Later the Scotsman's son, Alexander Fleming, attended St. Mary's Hospital School of Medicine and went on to become famous as the discoverer of the antibiotic penicillin. Meanwhile the nobleman's son was rising to prominence in British politics. During World War II he became seriously ill with pneumonia but was treated with penicillin and survived. His name? Winston Churchill.

Mushroom Saute with Puff Pastry
Kevin McKenzie
[Prepared by Rover's at the 1986 PSMS exhibit]

1 lb mushrooms basil
3 chopped shallots chives
2 tsp garlic, chopped 1/4 cup roasted pine nuts
2-3 oz brandy 1/4 lb puffed pastry,
1 cup stock cut to resemble mushrooms
tarragon
1/2 lb butter 1-2 Tbs mild olive oil

1. Heat pan, add olive oil, heat until smoking (barely).
2. Saute garlic, shallots. Remove from pan.
3. Saute mushrooms over high heat, tossing.
4. Flame with brandy, add stock, reduce.
5. Add butter, shallot-garlic, herbs, nuts.
6. Serve immediately garnished with puffed pastry.

Welcome to the following new members:

Eric Madsen, 909 Belmont Avenue East, #2, Seattle, WA 98102
Tel: 322-8305

Ramona S. Owen, 1527 NW 60th, Seattle, WA 98107
Tel: 782-8062

Allan M. Rupprecht, 2304 Juniper Road NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N 3V3 Canada
Tel: (403) 282-8974

Fred Weinmann, 25121 SE 14th, Issaquah, WA 98027
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Spore Prints
is published monthly, September through June, by the
PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Center for Urban Horticulture, Mail Stop GF-15
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Richard Sieger, Vice President
Edith M. Godar, Treasurer
Lois Skoor, Secretary

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Dennis Bowman, Ralph Burbridge,
Ted Bush, Camille Diaz,
Ludmilla H. Kleinman, Ingeborg McGuir
Daniel Schwenk, Gary Smith

ALTERNATES:
Walter Knox, James Herndon

IMMED. PAST
Margaret Dilly

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Agnes A. Sieger, 15555 14th N.E.,
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Calendar
Feb 9 Membership meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
Feb 15 Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., CUH
Feb 19 Spore Prints deadline
Feb 29 Spore Prints mailing, 10:00 a.m., CUH
Mar 11 Survivors’ Banquet

BOARD MEETING Dick Sieger

Writing a 1988 budget was our primary activity at the
January board meeting. Also, the board decided to
submit to the membership an amendment to the bylaws
which would enable PSMS to obtain a nonprofit mailing
permit. In addition, Coleman read a letter from the
University of Washington that confirmed our understand­ing
with the Center for Urban Horticulture.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADDITION TO PSMS BYLAWS

The February 9, 1988, general membership meeting has
been designated for the purpose of voting on the
following proposed addition (in bold type) to the
PSMS Bylaws:

ARTICLE IV, Membership; Section 2 - Election to
Membership: Individual, family, and student members­
ships are open to all interested persons who pay the
annual dues established as provided herein. (See
Section 4 below.) No person shall be denied member­
ship because of race, religion, color, age, sex, sexual
preference, handicap, or for any other reason.

The proposed addition was adopted by the Board of
Trustees January 18, 1988, and the wordage approved
by a PSMS lawyer. The purpose of the change is to
comply with IRS and U.S. Post Office guide lines for
nonprofit organizations.

Membership Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for
Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle.

February’s program features Range and Diversity of
Fungi by Coleman Leuthy. An overview of the third
kingdom, it describes Basidiomycetes (jelly fungi,
puffballs, polypores, spine fungi, corals, boletes,
champignons) and Ascomycetes (morels, cup fungi) and
explains the differences between them. The North
American Mycological Association has an excellent
library of slide programs which any of its members
may borrow. This is one of them, prepared by our
president who is an experienced teacher.

BUILDING FUND Ralph Burbridge

At the January membership meeting I reported
that about $5,000 has been either contrib­
uted or pledged. Although we are quite a
long way from our goal of $25,000, I’m con­
fident that by June of 1989 we will have
achieved that goal.

In the years ahead, this will drastically cut our
rent expense and may even make it possible for PSMS
to have funds available for other programs.

I have been concerned about our lack of continuity in
any one location. I have felt, for some time, that
that prospective members might see this as a lack of
stability.

I still like the idea of dropping a couple of dollars
in a coffee can each month to be set aside specifi­
cally for our building fund. It’s very unlikely that
we will ever have an opportunity like this again. If
you feel that you are not sure of exactly what we are
trying to do, please call me at 878-4484. I’ll be
glad to go over the plan with you.

Since last month’s report, seventeen donations of at
least $50 have come from
Carl & Betty Hermanson
Berenice Mahoney
James & Karen Humphrey
Ernest & Elaine Henley
Douglas & Katherine Raff
Ernie & Judi Boa
Ed & Patrice Benson
Kit Scates- & Harley Barnhart
Margaret Holzbauer
Larry & Kay Mayhew
Pat & Sue Murosko
Frank Halkes
Kris Fulsaas
Howard Williams
Lynn Phillips
Anonymous (2)

DIED: Former PSMS "First Lady" Navarre Orth, 72,
January 4, 1988, at Camano Island. Our condol­
cences to her husband, Jack, who was president of
PSMS from 1976 to 1977.

DIED: Long-time PSMS member Fred Wasson, 80,
January 6, 1988. He and his wife, Helen, served
on the PSMS Board for many years. He was PSMS
Treasurer, book chairman with his wife, Helen, and
on the PSMS Morel Committee for 10 years. Recent
activities had been limited because of ill health.

DIED: Noted mycologist Howard Bigelow, Clitocybe
authority and friend to amateurs, November 21,
1987, of a heart attack.
ELECTION! ELECTION! ELECTION!

The following candidates are up for election to PSMS offices in 1988. This year we are voting for a president, a treasurer, and five trustees. Please read the following profiles carefully and mark your choices on the enclosed ballots. Don't forget to return your ballot in the self-addressed envelope.

Each family membership is entitled to two votes; each individual membership is entitled to one vote (PSMS Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3).

**PRESIDENT**

Gilbert Austin

PSMS member since 1981. Have served as vice-president, field trip chairman, and trustee. I enjoy the organization and will do what I can to keep it an attractive, active, and viable recreational and teaching body. My mushroom search began with membership in PSMS, and it is now my principal outdoor hobby.

**TREASURER**

Edith Godar

For many years I have enjoyed and profited from the activities of PSMS. Now it is time for me to help with the work. My interests include pot hunting, conservation, and photography (other people's).

**TRUSTEE**

Mark Jarand

Age 31. B.S. in chemistry, Univ. of Calif., San Diego. Employed: Key Tech Corp. A relatively recent enthusiast, I have had some interest in mushrooms since picking meadow mushrooms with my father as a child in San Diego. My interests lean toward home cultivation, fueled by my notorious lack of luck in collecting on field trips.

**TRUSTEE**

Ingeborg McGuire

I have been a member of PSMS for about 5 years. I've been hunting mushrooms since high school. Most of you know me from the preservation booth. I have a strong ecological philosophy. PSMS has given to me friends, knowledge, and activities. Now it is my turn to reciprocate, and I hope to serve all the members in this position.

**TRUSTEE**

Michele Willis

Basically a pot hunter, I've been a member of the mycological societies of New York, San Francisco, and now the Puget Sound. We need to bring in new members who will become active in PSMS, and I believe revitalizing our field trips will help do this.

**TRUSTEE**

Gary Smith

It would be an honor to serve a second term as trustee. Very much, I enjoyed working on the Exhibit and helping to plan our society's agenda. Primarily, I am interested in the education of our members and the public, that we may understand mushrooms and their important role in the ecology of our environment. I will appreciate your vote.

**TRUSTEE**

Amelia Schultz

A native Washingtonian, my interest in mushrooms began during my college days when I learned to hunt for the pot. I joined PSMS about five years ago, and have participated in classes and annual exhibits. I have experience in small-group decision-making, and skills in publicity and media.

**TRUSTEE**

Kern Hendricks

I have enjoyed many aspects of PSMS activities and acquired some knowledge of mycology during my years as a member. The dues are but a small part of the Society's needs. Serving in committees and on the board is small payment for the benefits and pleasures received.

**TRUSTEE**

Kris Fulsaas

It would be an honor to serve a second term as trustee. Very much, I enjoyed working on the Exhibit and helping to plan our society's agenda. Primarily, I am interested in the education of our members and the public, that we may understand mushrooms and their important role in the ecology of our environment. I will appreciate your vote.

**TRUSTEE**

Ingeborg McGuire

I am completing my first term as a PSMS board member and would like to continue to contribute in that capacity. If re-elected, I shall do my best to further the interests of PSMS.
There is much to be said, but space is limited so I'll be brief. There have been some IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES since our January meeting.

SB5137 was not rescheduled, but SB6240 was. It, too, directs the Department of Natural Resources to develop a program for wild mushroom harvesting. It specifies recreational gathering takes precedence over commercial, but it opens the door for licensing and limiting for both. We therefore are reluctant to urge passage of this bill in its present state.

HB1159 has been improved and becomes "Substitute HB1159." It requires purchase of a license and data collecting for both buyer and processor. Administered by the Department of Agriculture, with penalties for noncompliance, this bill also appropriates funds for badly needed research studies. Information gathering that this bill will provide should enable us to determine further action.

We are hopeful, but not sure, that HB275, which amends the "Specialized Forest Products Act" to include wild mushrooms and protects landowners, will make it before committee this SHORT 60 DAY SESSION. It's worth urging your representatives to vote for it. Each time they are reminded of a mushroom issue, it makes us more visible. Contact your representatives personally TODAY (you have only three) by letter, phone, or hot-line. (1-800-562-6000). You can also use this number to request a copy of any bill, its status, and committee hearing schedules. For further questions, contact me (782-8511) or Lori Knox (789-8156).

Thank you for helping with the Spore Prints mailing: Coleman Leuthy, Mae Green, Amelia Schultz, Bob Judd, and Charlotte Turner-Zila. Our next mailing will be on Monday, February 29th, at 10:00 a.m. at CUH. Everyone is welcome to help.

--Millie Kleinman