



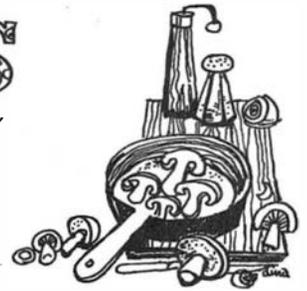
SPORE PRINTS

PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

200 Second Avenue North - Seattle, Washington 98109

SEPTEMBER 1971

NUMBER 74



SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL HEAR SLIDE LECTURE BY PAST-PREZ CHARLES VOLZ

The opening meeting of the 1971 fall season will hear an illustrated discussion of the genus *Tricholoma* by PSMS Past-President Charles Volz. Shown at left as he tussles with the identification of a particularly baffling specimen during a recent mushroom exhibit, Charles has found *Tricholomas* a personal challenge. His research into the genus has yielded some new insights into some of the local species, which will be shared with those attending the meeting. Those who miss this lecture will have to wait until the forthcoming publication in Pacific Search of Charles' key to the northwest species.

OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE TREATED TO A DELIGHTFUL DISCUSSION OF MUSHROOM POISONING

Seattle Doctor Lester W. Mittelstaedt, PSMS member and allergy specialist will give a talk on medical aspects of mushroom poisoning. Save October 11 for listening to all the gory details. More background next month.

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Welcome to another season of mushroom achievement! The members of the Board have their respective activities well under way: the Exhibit Committee is organized to put the show together, the Field Trips are lined out and even the Annual Banquet preliminaries have been arranged. However, it has been said, "Into each life some rain must fall." If good and sufficient rainfall hasn't occurred by the 20th of September, your President will call upon the Rain Dance Committee to perform its famous Peregrination Dance of Precipitation. For it is well known that well-watered fungi produce mushrooms of the finest quality for display.

Happily, we will see all of you back in the activities of the Society this fall. New things are stirring in the field of mycological education. It looks like a good year ahead.

Robert W. Ramsey - President



LIMITED SIZE BEGINNERS' CLASS WILL FEATURE INTENSIVE

SKULL SESSIONS UNDER TUTORSHIP OF CHAIRMAN MILT GROUT

A new format is being introduced this fall for classes for beginners. Starting September 20th and each Monday thereafter for 8 weeks (except meeting nights), a class of not over 30 will meet for two-hour sessions (7 to 9 pm) at the Pacific Science Center. Sessions will feature lectures, identifications, question and answer breaks, pop quizzes and other innovative techniques. To cover the cost of classroom space being provided by the Center, each registrant will pay a fee \$6.00 for the course.

For the first class, registrations will be accepted at the September 13 Membership Meeting. Education Chairman Milton Grout emphasizes that the class is for real beginners and will be conducted on a very basic level.

LAKE ARROWHEAD FIELD TRIP WILL FEATURE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

C*L*A*M AND O*Y*S*T*E*R F*E*E*D ON OCTOBER 31ST

Highlight of the Lake Arrowhead Field Trip the weekend of October 30-31 will be an all-you-can-eat feast of savory clam chowder, succulent steamed clams in nectar, buttery oyster stew, crisp cole slaw, garlic bread and coffee. Chow time will start at noon on Sunday and will last as long as any customer is able to stagger back for another helping. Price is a modest \$3.75 for adults and \$2.00 for kids.

Best get tickets ahead of time to assure a place in the chow line. Lyle McKnight will have tickets available at the September and October Meetings and also at the exhibit.

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Scientific Advisor: Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz.

B & W PHOTOS NEEDED FOR "SPORE PRINTS"

Discerning readers will note a few "mug" shots of PSMS notables featured in this month's Spore Prints. We have initiated the use of a low-cost method of pasting up half-tone prints in making up issues. Any member with the desire to see his black and white photos in print (with photo credit, of course) is invited to send us copies. To reproduce well, the prints should have reasonable contrast and be in focus. Pictures to illustrate current happenings are welcome, of course, but we also see the need for building a file of mushroom pictures & related subjects to background future articles.

ANN LEVANAVICH is Official Historian for the Society and would appreciate receiving from members clippings of articles on mushrooms or on activities of PSMS or its members for the PSMS scrapbook

The Dalles: May 8-9. 162 persons signed log book, with 80 staying for pot-luck. Cloudy and showers Saturday, sunny and beautiful Sunday. 2400 ft elevation. 73 mushrooms identified. Someone walked off with a specimen marked plainly, "Save for Dr. Stuntz." Unfortunate practice which should not happen again.

Tumwater Camp: May 22-23. 60 people. 35 at pot-luck, 28 mushrooms identified. 2500 ft elevation. Sunny both days. Wood by Don Peterson (wood at Dalles by Dave Schmitt). Bill and Pauline Pollard have assumed the job of putting up the plastic.

Entiat Valley: May 29-31. About 250 people, not potluck, 26 outfits camped at a gravel dump 13 miles north of Ardenvoir, with 30 more scattered up and down the creek. The first four Forest Camps were closed and rest still snowed in. I estimate 9,000 pounds of morels went through our camp and probably as many more that I didn't see. For the first time we found white morels (taken to Dr. Stuntz by Bill Pollard, with others). Several Calbovista subsculpta, two Calvatia gigantea, three Clitocybe odora group and a few others. No identification table was set up, and the few mushrooms were merely identified for the persons bringing them in.

KITSAP PENINSULA MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY TO HOLD FIRST ANNUAL SHOW

The Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society, formed last fall, will stage its First Annual Mushroom Exhibit on Sunday, October 17, 1971, hours 1 to 9 p.m., at the Westside Improvement Club at National Avenue and E Street, Bremerton. To get there from the ferry terminal, go west on Hiway 304, then South on Hiway 3 (following signs to the USS Missouri, which is also open for viewing Sunday), continuing to National Avenue, then right to the Westside Club.

Any PSMS member willing to assist would be warmly welcomed, and all are invited to visit the show. Further information will come from Darlene Collins, Secretary-Treasurer, Route 3, Box 422, Poulsbo, Wa 98370.



FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE Chairman Paul Nestell has finally figured out how to get out from under the job of being permanent fieldtrip leader. He and Carol are on extended vacation during August, September and part of October. Before they left, however, Paul, as always true to his duty, arranged the following schedule of trips:

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| Sep 4-6 | CLE ELUM FIREMENS PAVILION, Bea Buzzetti, leader, was cancelled by the Board on the thinking that proper notice could not be given and that it would probably be still too dry to produce good collecting. |
| Sep 18-19 | SODA SPRINGS FOREST CAMP, five miles up the Bumping River Road from the Chinook Pass Highway SR 410. Victor Nendza will lead. |
| Oct 2-3 | DALLES FOREST CAMP, Snoqualmie National Forest, on Highway 410 about 25 miles east of Enumclaw, Chuck Woodruff, leader. |
| Oct 16-17 | THUNDERBIRD PARK, five miles east of Monroe on the south side of the Skykomish River on Ben Howard Road, leader to be Howard Melsen. |
| Oct 30-31 | LAKE ARROWHEAD, 14 miles west of Shelton in Mason County, featuring Clam & Oyster Feed (See Page 1), Paul Nestell leading. |

V. I. P. Profile

THE NESTELL TEAM - PAUL AND CAROL

The inimitable profile at right is known to all PSMS as their field trip leader, indomitable mushroom identifier and indefatigable exporter for dry firewood. When his "bio" data was requested, Paul sent the following, which is printed almost entirely as received.



"Paul Nestell was born and grew up in Colorado. A high school graduate and an Eagle Scout, he is still attending the Univ of Hard Knocks, from which few persons ever graduate."

"On foot and horseback, he traveled over a good portion of western Colorado, camping, hunting, prospecting and learning nature's ways. He worked two years as a hunting guide, two more managing a dude ranch, then got out of the saddle for good."

He became a master printer, working at the trade for 20 years, retiring in 1967.



"Carol was born and grew up in Dryden, Washington, where she started camping when six weeks old and is still going strong. She has a BA degree from Willamette University, worked 27 years for the federal government and retired this year."

"Carol and Paul were married in 1954, spent a three-year honeymoon traveling in 39 states and finding mushrooms in all of them. Their most prized wedding present was Dr. A. H. Smith's Mushrooms in Their Natural Habitat."

"They have kept a mushroom and wild food diary for 16 years. One year they found edible mushrooms 48 weekends."

"In 1965, they joined PSMS and have worked both days on every exhibit since. The Nestells have been very generous with mushrooms, have contributed door prizes and their time to five banquets. Paul has assisted with many meeting programs and served on the Board for three years. This is his fifth year as field trip chairman. At potlucks, Carol usually cooked stuffed morels (until their supply ran out) in "Lil Chef," their oven. All of their equipment is named, the new car being "Red Lemon."

"In 1970, in recognition of outstanding service to the Society, the Nestells were honored with a PSMS Life Membership."

EXHIBIT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

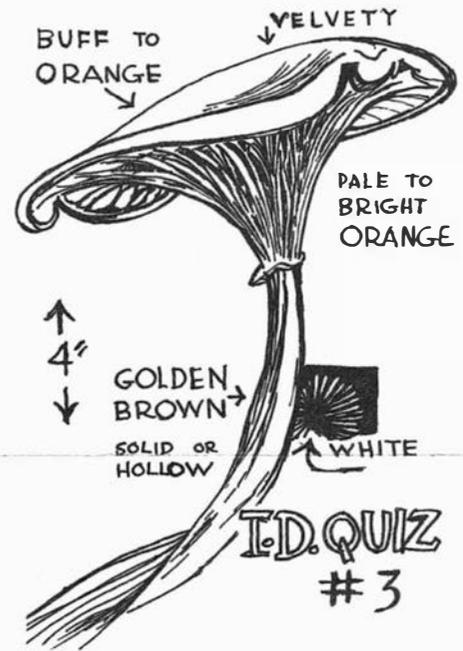
DON PETERSON (PR 6-7506)

October 23-24, is just a few short weeks away. Here is a reminder for all PSMS members and friends that some of our exhibit committees still need help and lots of it. Don't wait to be asked - volunteer. When you do receive a request for help - pitch in. The rewards are great - low pay but high satisfaction.

the September 13 membership meeting will be sign up sheets for the various committees. I and other committee people will be there to answer questions.

Remember, the exhibit is not the work of just a few individuals, but the result of the efforts of virtually every active member. Come and join the party.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM



I.D. QUIZ #3

This spongy, yellow-fleshed look-alike to a favorite edible species can be found scattered on humus or rich forest soil in shady lowland woods. The narrow orange gills are often forked to complete its disguise. Formerly considered poisonous, it is now regarded as harmless, although it lacks the sweet smell and delicious taste of the real McCoy.

ANSWER: Clitocybe aurantilacus (Hymenogaster aurantilacus) "False Chanterelle"

FALL 1971 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Monday Membership Meeting
- 20 Monday Board Meeting

OCTOBER

- 11 Monday Membership Meeting
- 17 Sunday Kitsap Peninsula Myco Show
- 17 Sunday Oregon Myco Society Show
- 18 Monday Board Meeting
- 23-24 PSMS 8TH ANNUAL MUSHROOM SHOW

NOVEMBER

- 8 Monday Membership Meeting
- 22 Monday Board Meeting



A Dramatic Fight Saves Victim Of Mushroom

Few of the battles by the nation's doctors to save lives ever come to the attention of the public. One of these struggles, particularly dramatic in its race against death from the poison mushroom, began in New Jersey's pine woods. Before the fight ended, it had involved doctors, diplomats and businessmen around the world.

BY ROSLYN BARBAROSH
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Eight months ago Clayton Brown and his neighbor Gary Bartee, both of Goshen, N.J., picked mushrooms in the pine woods near Cape May, N.J.

It was Friday, the 13th of November, 1970.

Brown and Bartee considered themselves experienced mushroom gatherers.

A week later Bartee and Brown's 13-year-old daughter Terry were dead from mushroom poisoning. Brown was in critical condition at Temple University Hospital but later recovered.

Why did Brown survive when the other two died?

The medical records attribute it matter of factly to treatment with thioctic acid, used experimentally in Europe.

But behind Brown's recovery was a stroke of great luck, the doctors' long memories, their swift improvisation, and a quiet drama of intertwining connections in research extending from Czechoslovakia and South Africa to France and Italy.

The story of the fight to save Brown's life was recently disclosed by Dr. Albert Finestone of Temple University Hospital. He said he believes

The news article below, reprinted from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 12, 1971, is factual and straightforwardly written, free from the usual sensationalism attending stories of mushroom poisoning. Its subject, *Amanita verna* poisoning, may become increasingly important in the PSMS collecting area in coming years. *Amanita verna* was unreported in Washington until its discovery by Joy Spurr in May, 1968 near Battleground. The species apparently is well established for the Spurrs have collected it every year since in the same locality. The danger is real that its distribution will widen to include the Puget Sound area. Members should check their handbooks and become familiarized with this pure white, slender *Amanita* with a saccate volva, most deadly of the genus.

the case marked the first time thioctic acid, an industrial chemical used in biochemical analysis, had been used to treat mushroom poisoning in this country.

"We are not saying this is an antidote for mushroom poisoning," said Dr. Finestone. "We only know it worked."

After picking the mushrooms that November day, Brown and Bartee later prepared a stew with them. It was eaten by Brown, his wife, two daughters and Bartee. Mrs. Bartee did not eat the stew because she didn't like mushrooms.

That night those who had eaten the stew became ill with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

The five were admitted to the Burdette-Tomlin Memorial Hospital at Cape May Court House where the family physician, Dr. Ulric Laquer, diagnosed their illness as mushroom poisoning.

Dr. Laquer then went to the field where Brown and Bartee had picked the mushrooms and, using books on fungi, identified the villain as *Amanita verna*, one of the most toxic of the 70 poisonous mushrooms. It is common in wooded areas east of the Great Plains.

Dr. Laquer continued giving supportive treatment and Mrs. Brown and her daughter, not seriously ill, recovered during the week.

Bartee's condition "appeared stable," but Brown and his daughter, Terry, were in serious condition.

On Nov. 20, Brown was transferred to Temple University Hospital and admitted to the respiratory intensive care unit under Dr. Finestone's care. Terry was sent to St. Christopher's Hospital, Temple's pediatric division, where she died that night.

"He was in terrible shape when he was brought in," Dr. Finestone said. "He had severe impairment of the liver and impaired kidney function. An autopsy on his daughter showed she died of massive necrosis of the liver." In effect, the liver had died.

"I didn't know anything about mushroom poisoning. I knew it had occurred, but I had never treated it before."

Bartee was transferred to Temple Hospital Saturday Nov. 21 but died en route to the hospital.

Dr. Donald Simons, a research chemist at DuPont in Wilmington, Del., and an amateur student of fungi, heard of the deaths and that Brown was in critical condition. On Monday, Nov. 23, he contacted Dr. Laquer's associate, Dr. Robert Stineman, who in turn referred him to Dr. Finestone's intern, Dr. Jay Marcowitz.

Dr. Simons alerted Dr. Marcowitz to a study done by Dr. Jiri Kubicka of Trebon, Czechoslovakia, in which Dr. Kubicka reported success in treating 39 of 40 cases of *Amanita verna* poisoning in southern Bohemia

with an injectable solution of thioctic acid made by a company in Milan, Italy.

Dr. Finestone said he also remembered that an antitoxin was available from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, but because of the time difference between the United States and France, the Institute was closed when Dr. Finestone called. He then telephoned the American Embassy in Paris for assistance. An official there called the director of the institute who told him the antitoxin had been discontinued.

On that same Monday, the Philadelphia poison information center located the raw chemical — a powder of thioctic acid — at J. P. Baker Co., in Phillipsburg, N.J., an industrial chemical firm. It was rushed to Temple Hospital and the pharmacy department was called in for assistance.

Dr. Salvatore Turco, who teaches a course in injectable

medication at the university, was in charge of preparing a solution for use on Brown.

At 4 p.m. Monday, they had their first break. The Washington Poison Control Center called back saying Kubicka had written an article in a South African medical journal in 1963 entitled, "New Possibilities in the Treatment of Poisoning by the Deadly *Amanita*." The journal was located in the medical library of nearby Hahnemann Hospital.

At 5 p.m. Dr. Finestone and Dr. Marcowitz decided to use thioctic acid on Brown.

"We probably would have waited until the next day, but when we got the paper, it was very encouraging, and it gave the dosage," Dr. Turco said.

The first dose, 300 m.g., was administered to Brown at 9:30 Monday night.

"We got word early Tuesday Nov. 24, that the patient was doing nicely, and the doctors ordered us to prepare a second and a third dose," Dr. Turco said.

The doctors called the Milan firm on Wednesday, Nov. 25, and were told the company had gone out of business. They were given a second and then a third Milan number, and finally were referred to Richardson-Merrell, S.P.A., in Naples, an affiliate of Richardson-Merrell, an American drug firm.

They spoke to a Dr. G. C. Peri, who confirmed Cohen's preparation. The solution turned out to be both heat- and light-sensitive.

Dr. Peri agreed to rush 300 25 m.g. ampules of the injectable solution — tiocidasi — to Temple Hospital. It was put aboard a plane to New York, then transferred to Philadelphia and delivered by a stewardess to Dr. Turco.

The tiocidasi was used Thursday morning, Nov. 26, three days after the makeshift solution was first administered to Brown.

Brown ultimately received seven doses of thioctic acid — three of the homemade solution and four tiocidasi manufactured in Italy.



01' Paul Nestell can sure pick some interesting sites for our Field Trips!