

# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Monroe Center, 1810 N.W. 65th St., Seattle, WA 98117

December 1985

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Bob Ramsey  
1970-71

Howard Melsen  
1972-73

Morrill Gatcomb  
1969

Milt Grout  
1974-75, 1982-83

Ralph Nolan  
1968

Jack Orth  
1976-77

George Rafanelli  
1967

Jennie Schmitz  
1978-79

Charlie Volz  
1966

Carl Hermanson  
1980-81

Ben Woo  
1964-65

Margaret Dilly  
1984-85

Margaret McKenny

Daniel E. Stuntz



# P. S. M. S. Spore Prints

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**PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
Monroe Center, 1810 N.W. 65th St., Seattle, WA 98117  
Direct all mail to this address

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Gilbert Austin, Vice President, 1987 (1)  
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**SCI. ADVISOR:** Dr. Joseph F. Ammirati

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Hours: Wednesdays 6 - 9 p.m.  
Thursdays 6 - 9 p.m.

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WA 98155

## Calendar

- Dec. 9 Orientation class, 6:30 p.m., Monroe Center  
Christmas meeting, 7:30 p.m., Monroe Center
- Dec. 10 CEPS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library
- Dec. 12 Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library
- Mar. 14 1986 Survivors Banquet, Quinn's, Shilshole  
(tickets on sale at the December meeting)

**DIED:** Charter member Paul Rule, at age 83. For many years he gathered trees and moss on his property and brought it to our annual exhibits. Many people also fondly remember the field trips held at his resort near Monroe. We'll miss him.

**Irene O'Connor,** I don't know how your name came out O'Conner. Don't suppose I could blame it on computer gremlins, do you? The same ones that spelled Zila, Zilla? I apologize.

## Membership Meeting

Christmas meeting: 7:30 p.m., Monday, December 9th, Monroe Center auditorium.

The Christmas meeting is strictly a social function, so be prepared for goodies and entertainment. Members participating in the slide program should bring their slides to Joy Spurr before 7:30. (If you wish to participate, call Joy at 723-2759 before December 7.) Presentations will be limited to 3-5 minutes, and participants should sit near the podium. Tables will be available for members who wish to display photographic prints. The slide show will be followed by the fabulous PSMS coffee and cookie hour. Come and enjoy!

In keeping with the social theme of the December meeting, this issue of Spore Prints will focus on people and travel. Back to business in January.

## C H I N A



On April 26, Carl and Betty Hermanson along with Earl and Margo Harrison climbed aboard Northwest Orient Airlines for a 26 hour flight to Shanghai.

Like all tours to China, everything was under the control of the Peoples Republic Tourist Bureau, in the person of Tom and Oliver, Chinese guides who had been taught English by a Frenchman who couldn't pronounce the Chinese language or tell Chinese individuals apart, and consequently gave all his students English names. The interests of the Peoples Republic of China were balanced by their Western counterpart, Paul, who spoke fluent Chinese. In addition to Tom and Oliver, a local guide was engaged from each city the tour visited. These were not necessarily professionals from the Tourist Bureau. The one in Beijing, for instance, was a doctor who volunteered as a tour guide so she could brush up on her English.

From Shanghai, they visited Suzhou and Hangzhou just to the southwest. Then they flew northwest to Beijing to see the Great Wall and down to Xian, famous for its terra-cotta figures. Their sixth stop was Guilin in southern China, then Guangzhou, and finally Canton and Hong Kong.

Shanghai will be remembered for its people -- 12,000,000 of them, plus 4,000,000 bicycles. All that was visible looking from the bus down a side street was a wiggling mass of humanity.

In Suzhou, Carl stopped in a little shop where a family of seven made marble chops (stamps) for tourists. Most people get one with their name engraved on it. Carl ordered a special stamp with his name and a mushroom. The Harrisons brought a large part of the group back, which was almost more business than they could handle. The old father stayed up all night to get everything done in time. Afterward, he invited them in to see his home: two rooms with one big bed, where the family took turns sleeping. The surrounding houses were as crowded as the people, crammed wall to wall and house front to sidewalk.

Beijing, of course, is the stepping off place for the Great Wall of China, as impressive now as then -- and about as thickly populated with tourists both foreign and domestic.

Building was going on everywhere, by any means available. Two-wheeled carts of concrete railroad ties pulled by hand jostled for the right of way side by side with buses and cranes. Most people seemed to be wearing Mao-type clothes, with color reserved for babies and toddlers who, because of the one-child rule, are made much of. One of the most impressive things, Margo says, was the craftsmanship.

"The sights, the sounds, the skills," she concludes, "they're really indescribable."



Elsie Burkman, along with a group of fellow Mountaineers, followed more or less the same route, but in reverse. On May 12, after 13 hours in the air, they were met by their guide, Tom, at the railroad station in Hong Kong -- with McDonald's hamburgers.

The train deposited them at the White Swan in Canton, on the Pearl River. Probably their swankiest hotel, it has a waterfall in the lobby. Waking up to a rooster crowing, Elsie went out past the morning exercisers to see what the Canton market had to offer: live frogs tied together, little snakes for dissecting, live chickens and ducks -- and lots of little birds for pets. "I wanted to cut them all off and let them fly away. I felt sorry for them."

From Canton, they went to Guilin. What's in Guilin? Limestone peaks, memorialized in countless paintings; Buddhas carved in niches out of solid rock; waterways where boatmen pole little, flat-bottomed boats; hotels with moats where frogs sing in the morning.

"On China Airlines from Guilin to Xian," Elsie recalls, "they gave us gifts ... candy or nuts, little purses, fans, key chains, bags to carry things in."

The prime attraction of Xian is the big museum housing the life-sized terra-cotta army buried with Emperor Qin Shihuangdi in 210 B.C. The merchants thronging around the museum competed so successfully that Elsie's friend ended up buying five souvenir statuettes instead of one, and then had to lug them around for the rest of the trip.

In Beijing, they saw the Forbidden City, and the Summer Palace, and marvelous acrobats -- and, of course, the Great Wall. They sell things there, too. Shirts with "I climbed the Great Wall" on them. "Hello, hello," the merchants cry. "That's the only English word they know," says Elsie, "and they use it all the time."

Mountaineers, of course, must have mountains, so from Beijing, they took a train to Mt. Tai. Storing most of their belongings at the bottom, they headed up the slope to the guest house at the summit. It really wasn't mountaineering as we know it, more of a long walk up stone steps, beautifully made but at times very steep. They had lots of companions. Porters were carrying up bricks, sand, food. The guide had loaded Elsie's group up with a drink called Chrysanthemum. "So we gave a couple of cans to the boys who were struggling up there with this merchandise. They get about \$4.00 to do that. But their legs pay for it. They get varicose veins. They can't do it more than, say, four years, and then they're worn out."

Elsie was not surprised to be carrying canned pop up a mountain. Since tourists never drink the water, pop or beer is a dietary staple. "We had beer or soda pop at every meal, or hot tea."

Back on the train again, this time to Suzhou for a boat ride on the Grand Canal, a tour of an embroidery factory, and a look at a bonzai park. Seeing Elsie sketching in the park, the owners of a small embroidery shop gave her a little pen with the name of the town on it.

After Suzhou came Shanghai, where they toured a rug factory and a jade factory, and Huangshan, where they toured a tea plantation and a silk factory. Then back on the bus for some more stone steps up some more mountains.

All too soon, it was time to return to Suzhou and the flight home. "It's funny. When I got to Los Angeles, I missed all the Chinese around us. They were so nice to us. It was great."



## The Himalayas, Northern India, and Nepal

Tatiana Roats spent most of September on a mushroom study tour of the Himalayas, Northern India, and Nepal under the leadership of Gary Lincoff, President of the North American Mycological Association, Dr. Andrew Weil of the University of Arizona, and Dr. Emanuel Salzman. Their modes of travel were as diverse and colorful as the people -- plane, car, toy train, real train, motor coach, and boat. The flights, particularly the domestic ones, were preceded by a stringent security check, undoubtedly due to the Sikh unrest in Punjab.

"From Delhi we flew to Srinagar where we settled down for 4 days on elaborately carved houseboats furnished in turn-of-the-century decor, oriental carpets, crystal chandeliers, and a house boy who served us three meals a day. From here, we forayed west by car to Gulmaign in the Himalayan foothills, serpentine at high speed through a wall of horse-carts, sheep and goat herds, sacred cows, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The 'friendly' rivalry among the drivers left many clutching upholstery and jamming on imaginary brakes."

Even though this portion of Kashmir suffered from drought, Tatiana found four excellent *C. cibarius*. The next foray, to Pahalgam the same distance to the east, was notable by a considerable collection of *Lentinus edodes*. In general, the mushrooms were much the same as here in the Pacific Northwest.

On to Simla, an old English hill station where they forayed up to 6000 ft elevation in conifer, rhododendron, oak, and bamboo forest. Again settling down for 4 days, they visited the Hamachal Pradesh University mycology department headed by Dr. T.N. Lakhnappal and from there went to the mushroom research lab at Solan in charge of Dr. C.L. Jandaik.

"While foraying around the University we learned a simple and unique remedy for alleviating the sting of nettles: just rub the nearest cannabis plant on it -- grows wild profusely.

"We returned to Simla from the Solan foray by toy train, a 4 hour trip through 63 tunnels. Once back in Simla we were constantly entertained by the antics of the resident monkeys - protected by law and ever present."

At a gala dinner hosted by the Minister of Agriculture, the group was required to stand up one by one and state their particular interest in mushrooms. "Thank heaven for the Scotches served to us on silver salvers by liveried servants." The show-stopper, however, was an offering of paan, a masticatory of fresh betel leaves smeared with lime paste and catechu, dry betel nuts, cardamom, and tobacco and sometimes cloves, nutmeg, and anise seed as well. "We did our valiant best but failed the test -- we discreetly rid ourselves of the burdensome mouthful." An old Sanskrit verse enumerates the following 13 qualities of paan: "Bitterness, pungency, heat, sweetness, saltiness, astringency, power to remove gas, kill worms, remove phlegm, destroy foul odor (mouth), lend beauty to the mouth, purify it, and kindle passion. Qualities unobtainable even in heaven."

In Katmandu came the "piece de resistance" -- hunting mushrooms in the company of leeches! "The one rainless day ... we prepared ourselves thus: pour tobacco infusion around top of boot and put some into sock; also stuff pant leg into socks and tie a bandana around boot top. What a sight we were! Our

Nepalese guide scoffed at the whole procedure and he was right. Nothing we did kept the little beasts out of our shoes ... Unlike mosquitoes, which are noisy and painful, leeches are quiet and sneaky, injecting an anesthetic as they go through the weave of a sock. One feels nothing while bleeding copiously due to the anticoagulant released as well. The leeches disappeared after about 2000 ft, and we lived happily ever after."



**Business:** The library hours have changed. They will now be from 6 - 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. The board voted to post the complete minutes at the membership meetings for people who are interested. The board also approved purchase of a 10-cup coffee-maker to keep in the library for use by small groups, and purchase of a telephone and answering machine, also to be kept in the library.

The Booksales Committee has orders for *Psilocybe Mushrooms & Their Allies* by Paul Stamets and *A Glossary of Mycology* by Snell and Dick. Please let them know if they can order copies for you. Also, what with selling posters and T-shirts, the sales table is getting pretty busy for two people. If you can help, call Judi or Ernie Boa at 725-1235.

From all reports, the hearing at the Federal Building on November 20 went very well. Of the 50 or so people present, all were from mycological societies or the Native Plant Society.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Margaret Dilly

As I sit and write this message, a regular blizzard is going on outside. Wow, what an early winter! Combine that with a late summer, and what a short mushroom season we had. This may not have been all bad. It did slow down the commercial ventures in wild mushrooms.

As for now, it's time to enjoy the holiday season. One way is to attend the December meeting and share the wonderful pictures and slides of our members, who often give us a glimpse of their travels. New members are encouraged to participate. What better way to get acquainted! Finish the evening off with yummy cookies and conversation.

Speaking of the new year, dues are due, both for PSMS and NAMA members. For the club reduction in NAMA dues, you must send your dues to me, and I will pass them along to NAMA. (PSMS dues paid during or after the October Exhibit are good through 1986.)

A great holiday season to you all.

----- CEPS NEWS -----

On November 20, nearly 60 people, many of them PSMS members, attended a hearing in Seattle's Federal Building. Five of our State Representatives served as a review committee and listened as various speakers presented information on concerns about the harvesting of wild mushrooms. The two and one-half hour hearing followed a logical sequence that demonstrated the need for study and management. Kern Hendricks lead off the prearranged sequence of speakers which included members from several local mycological societies, local plant societies, and the scientific community.

Kern began by explaining his affiliation with PSMS and with the newly formed group CEPS (Citizens for Environmental Planning). As many of you know, CEPS has grown out of the never tiring efforts of Lori Knox, a PSMS member we all need to thank. Acting as the spokesperson for CEPS, Kern presented an overview of the speakers to follow and explained that each speaker would address a different aspect of concern for the need to manage the new and rapidly growing industry of wild mushroom harvesting for commercial sales. He then explained the need for a moratorium until all aspects could be properly studied, and complete impact statements properly compiled.

Mark Egger of the Washington Native Plant Society addressed the concern that high volume harvesting of mushrooms would endanger sensitive plants found in the same areas as the mushrooms.

Dr. Ammirati, PSMS scientific advisor, spoke of the need for study in the areas of sustained yields and the mycorrhizal associations of fungi such as the chanterelle and the Douglas fir.

The issue of safe identification of mushrooms and the need for proper training and certification was discussed by Margaret Dilly. Jeff Brown, a new PSMS member and a member of the Bar Association raised the questions of liabilities in a currently unregulated and unmanaged industry. Paul Stamets spoke of the need for funding for commercial growing of wild mushrooms. Several speakers made it clear to the panel that unlike other wild edibles often collected the most desirable of our wild mushrooms have not been able to be cultivated at this time. Frank Occhuito and Ralph Hayford spoke of the need for regulation and protection that would ensure availability of this natural resource for future generations.

At the end of the meeting, the panel asked that CEPS furnish a list of requests to be presented to the Department of Natural Resources.

PSMS members are urged to attend and support CEPS meetings to find out what you can do to help formulate a solution to this fast growing problem.