

Robert Lee Gilbertson

1925-2011





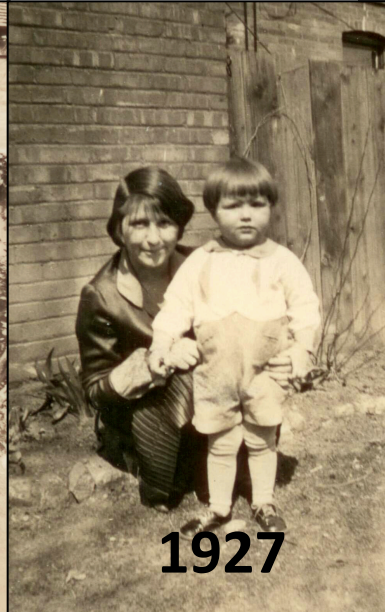
1925



1926



1927

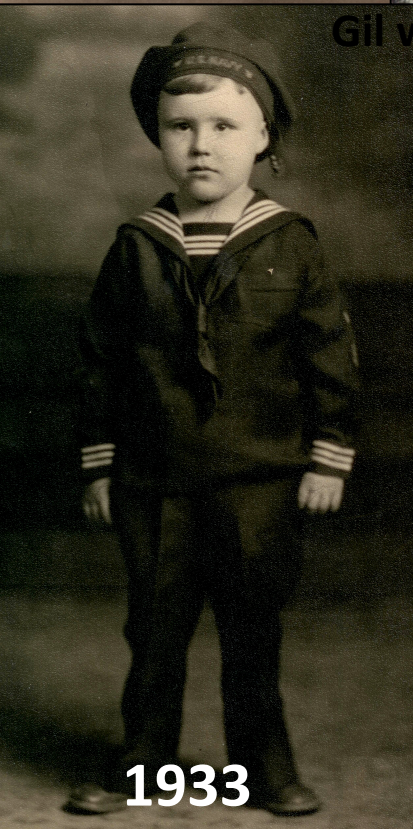


1927



1933

Gil with mother (Eula), father (George), and younger brother George



1933



1933

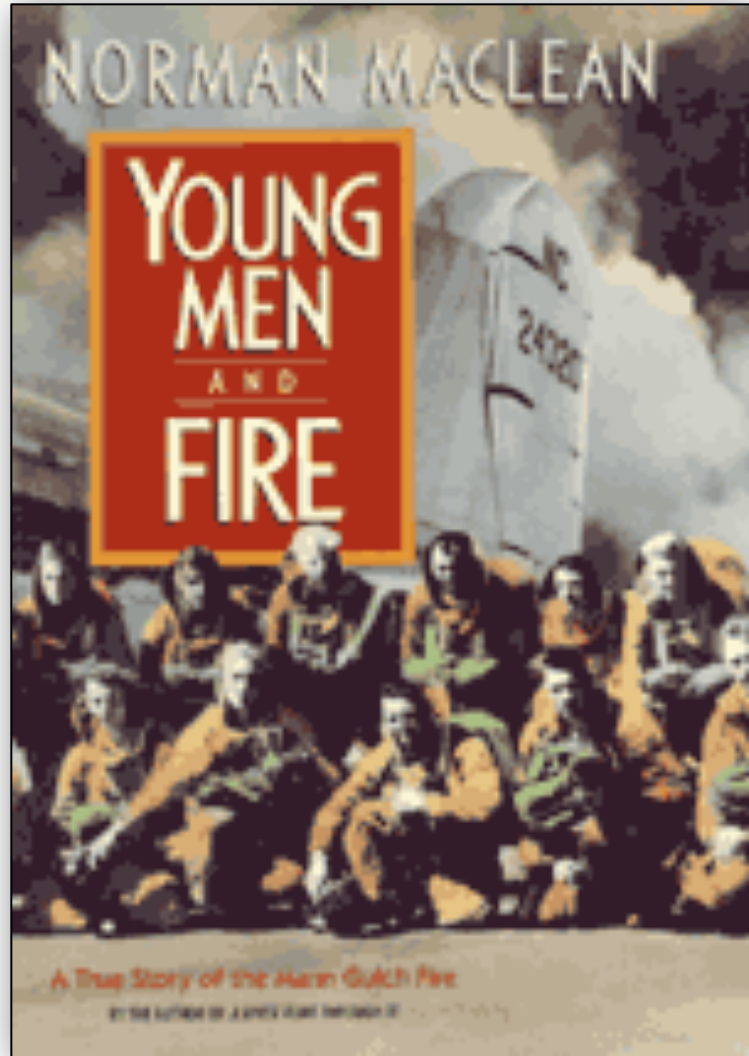
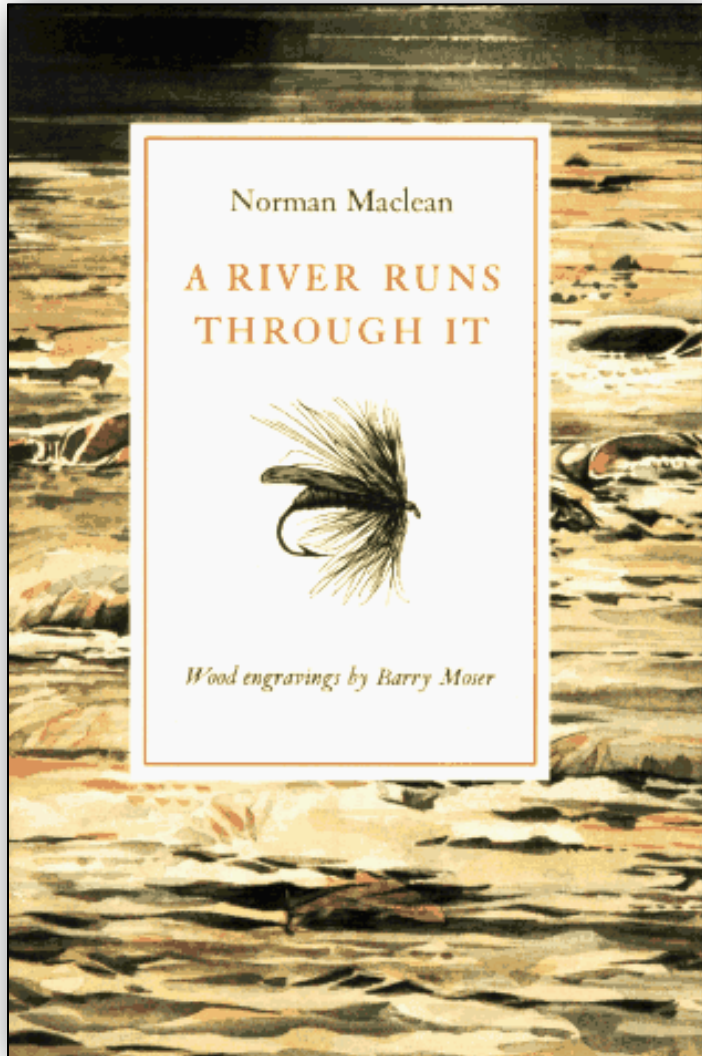


1941



1943

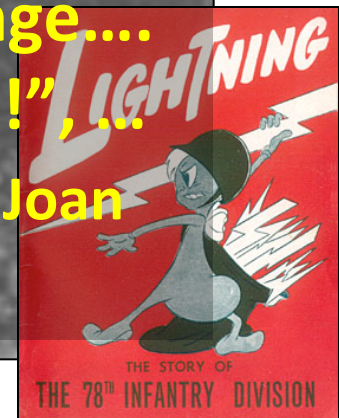
Growing up in Missoula Gil knew people in both of these books



Division casualties 1,515 between 13 – 19 December 1944

...40 years ago today, I was a 19-year old combat infantryman in Co. F, 309th Inf. Regt., 78th Inf. Division, participating in an attack on the German Wehrmacht in the Hürtgen Forest in the Ardennes. -RLG (December 13, 1984)

When he arrived in England, he was transported via bus to a military hospital, and on the way the bus drove past Stonehenge.... He exclaimed, "Hey, there's Stonehenge!" no one else seemed to notice Joel and Joan Starn

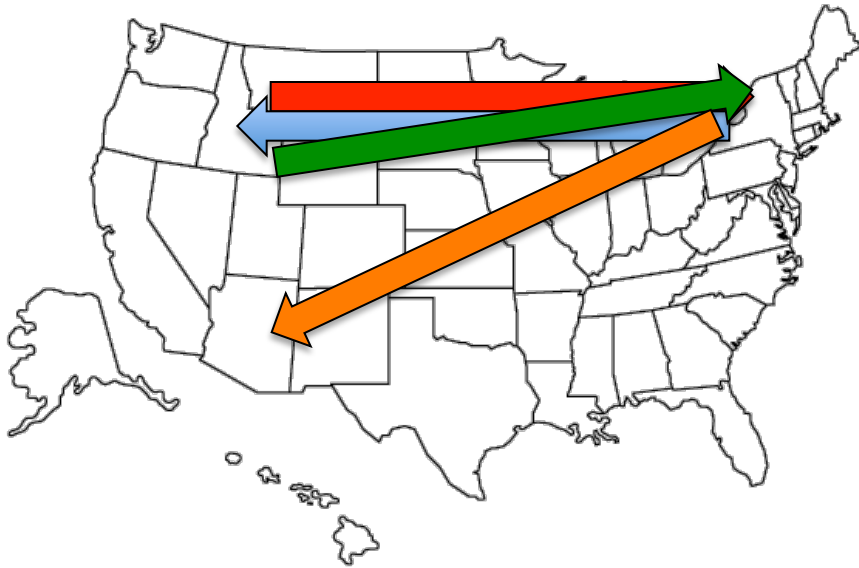




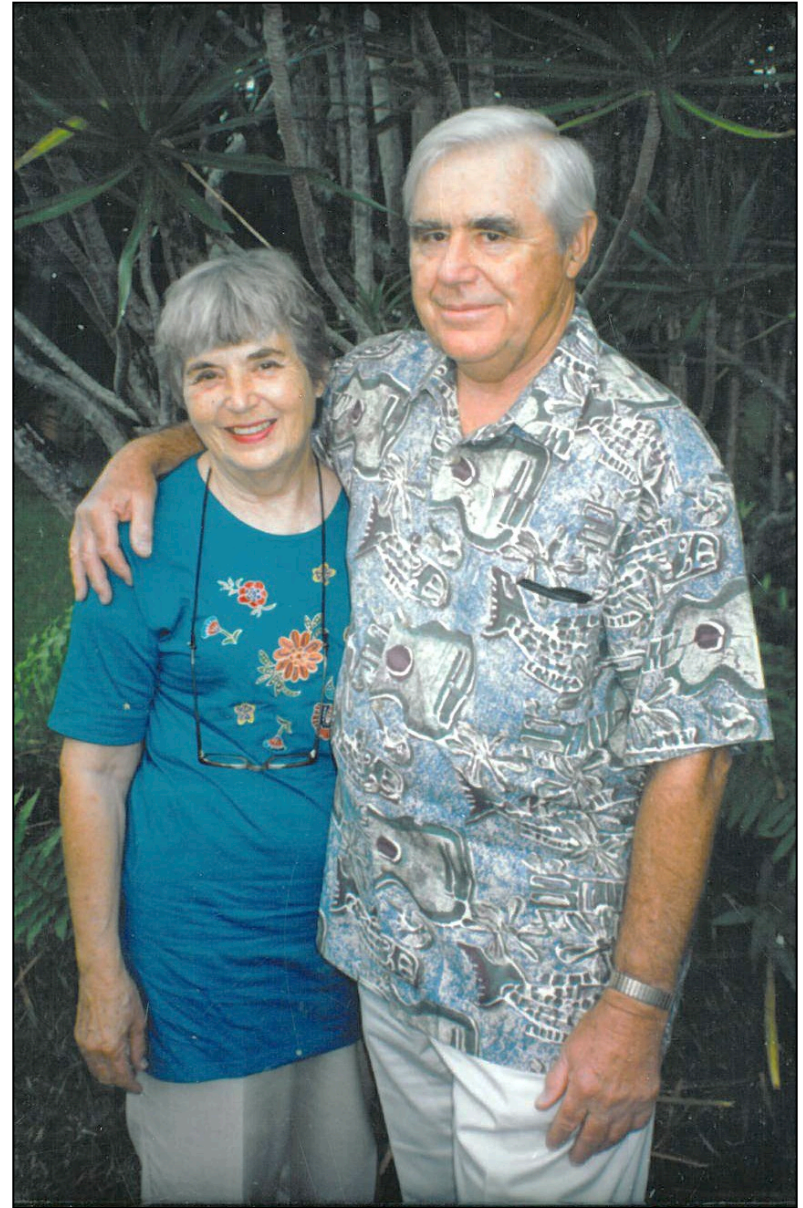
Pat



Pat, Joan, and Gil with one of five dalmations



**4 transcontinental moves
lots of collecting along the way**



Pat and Gil in Hawaii



Pat, Nick, Gil



Kelsey



Nick, Park, Gil, Pat

Jean, Nick, Kelsey



Park



Gil (left) and daughter Joan (right)

Joan



Joan and Bill Starn



Cameron, Joel, and Sally Starn



Sally, Cameron, Joel, Joan Starn, and Joel's wife





Jean and Kelsey Gilbertson



Park, Jean and Gil



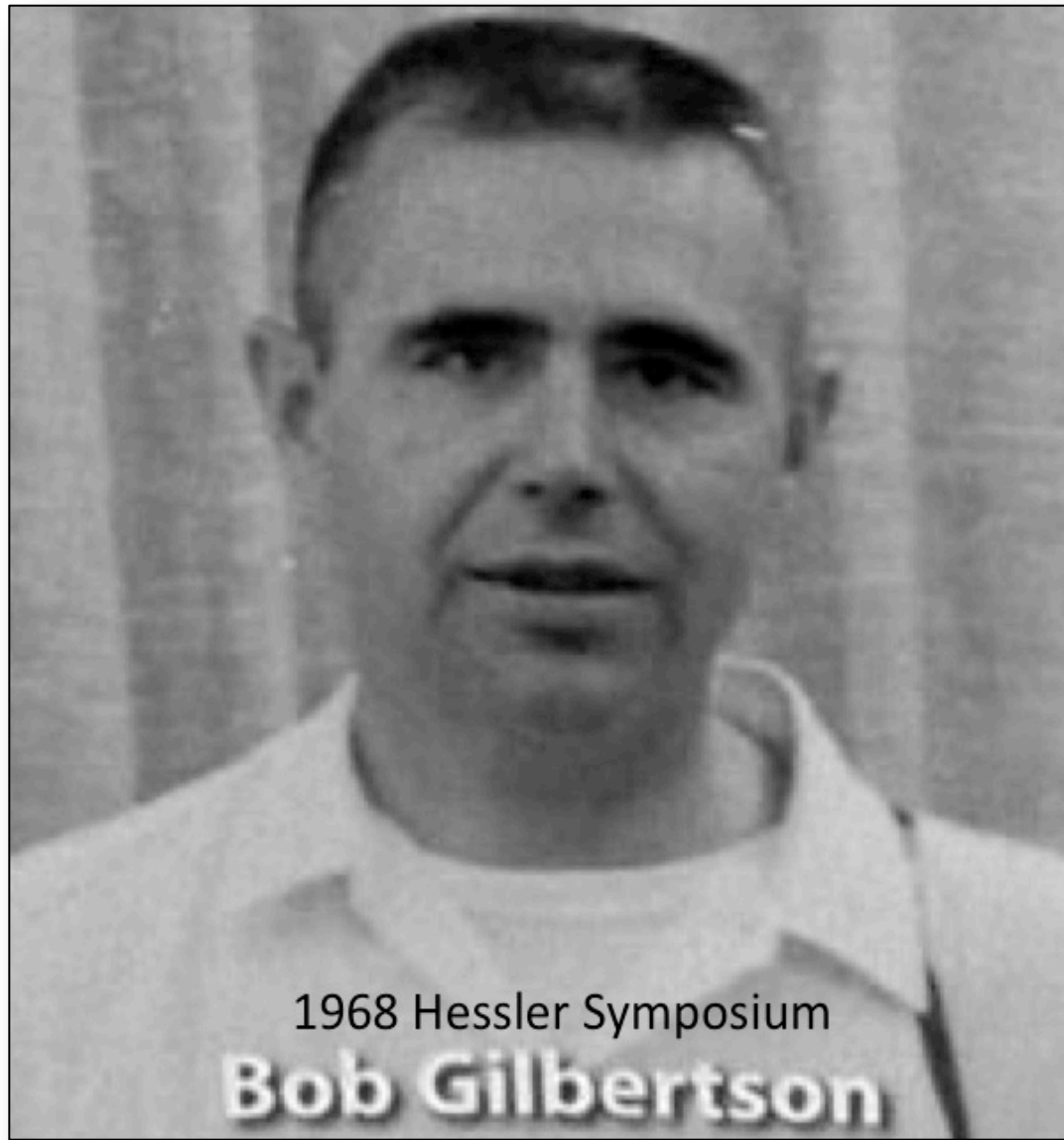
Joan, Celia, and Gil



Sally, Bill and Joan Starn, and Gil



Gil and Celia



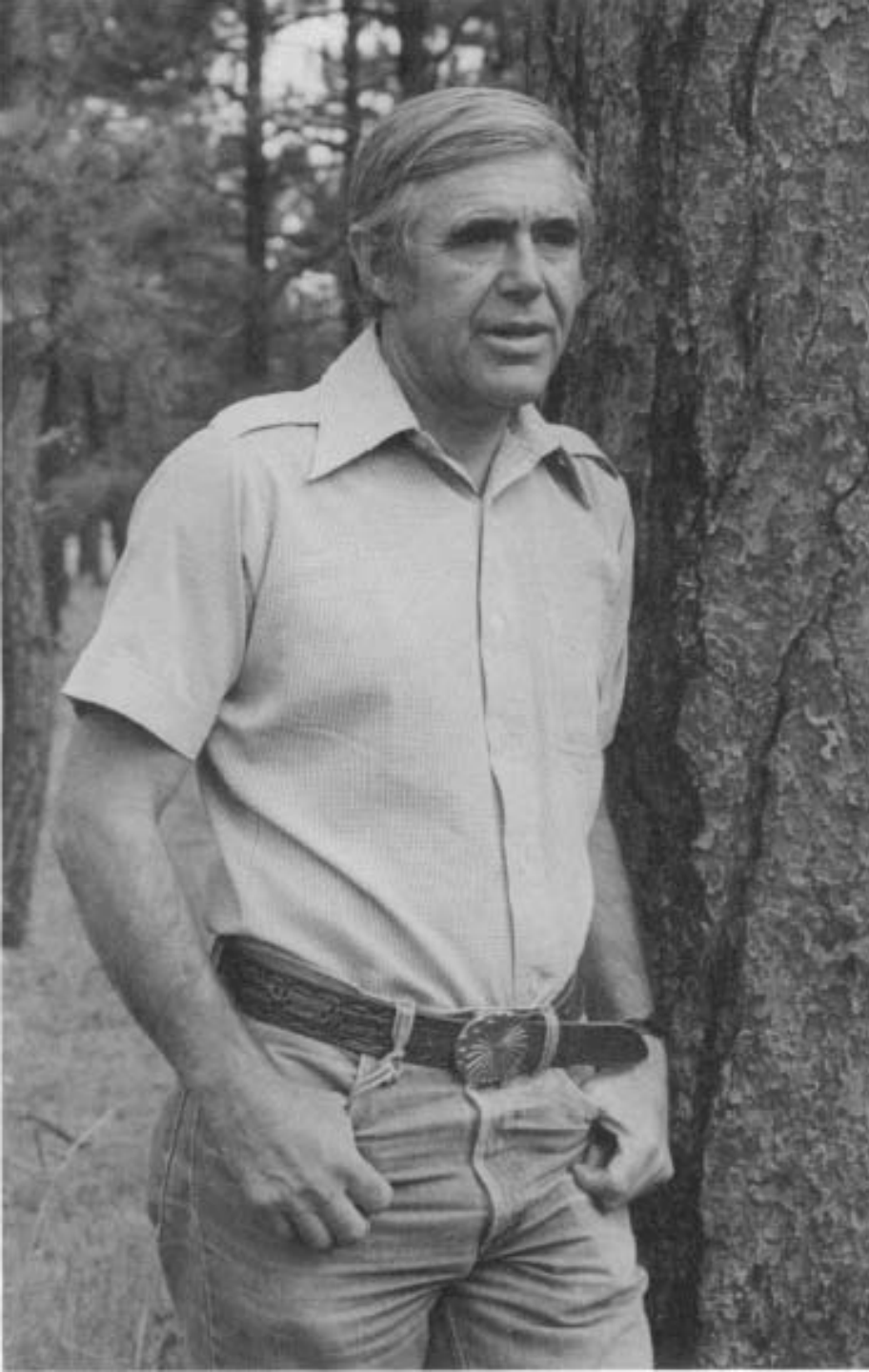
1968 Hessler Symposium

Bob Gilbertson

Windfall Lake Trail, Alaska, August 1969



Donations in Gil's honor can be made to the "Robert L. Gilbertson Mycological Herbarium" at the University of Arizona, or to the "Dr. Robert L. Gilbertson Scholarship" at the University of Montana that supports students at the Flathead Lake Biological Station.



MYCOLOGIA

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1980

No. 1

WOOD-ROTTING FUNGI OF NORTH AMERICA^{1,2}

ROBERT L. GILBERTSON

Department of Plant Pathology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721

In nature's infinite book of secrecy
A little I can read—W. Shakespeare

It is a great honor and pleasure to address you as president of the Mycological Society of America. The subject is one that has fascinated me since I became a graduate student in mycology 30 years ago. I was fortunate to begin my career by working with two admirable men and incomparable teachers of mycology, Daniel E. Stuntz and Josiah L. Lowe. For the past 25 years I have been privileged to work on wood-rotting fungi with several colleagues at the Center for Forest Mycology Research of the U. S. Forest Service. John G. Palmer, Frances F. Lombard, Harold H. Burdsall, Jr., Michael J. Larsen, and Orson K. Miller, Jr. have been an integral part of my mycological and personal life. I thank them for the pleasure of their company. Also, I must thank my students, who have given me more than I have given

¹ Presidential address, Mycological Society of America, Stillwater, Oklahoma, August 15, 1979.

² University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station journal article No. 3075.

[MYCOLOGIA for November-December, 1979 (71: 1103-1327)
was issued February 20, 1980]



At the first MSA Auction at the Davis meeting in 1988 pricey items were labeled “**donkey s--t,**” “**lizard caca,**” “**saguaro crud,**” all beautifully labeled by Bob Gilbertson with locality data. **Some of the packets sold for more than \$60.**

We bought a very nice photo of Gil at the 2001 Salt Lake City auction. There was substantial competition for the photo, and we had to bid high. We framed the photo, and it now hangs in the hallway of our home on our “Wall of Friends and Family.” --Johann Bruhn



Service to MSA....



leads to higher office

Join MSA



and denude Hawaii with a hand ax

Pre-meeting collecting, MSA, Tucson, Arizona, August 1980



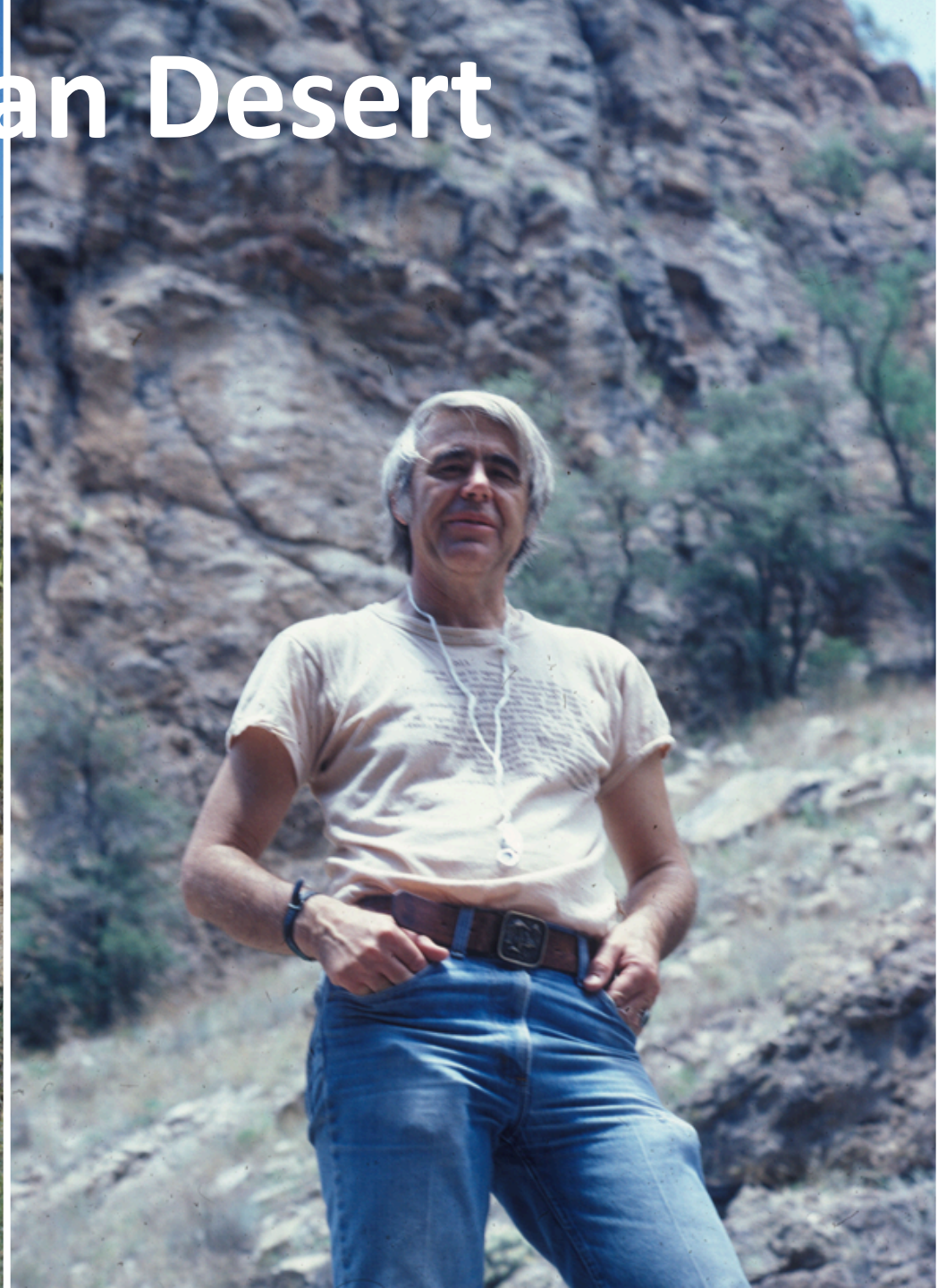
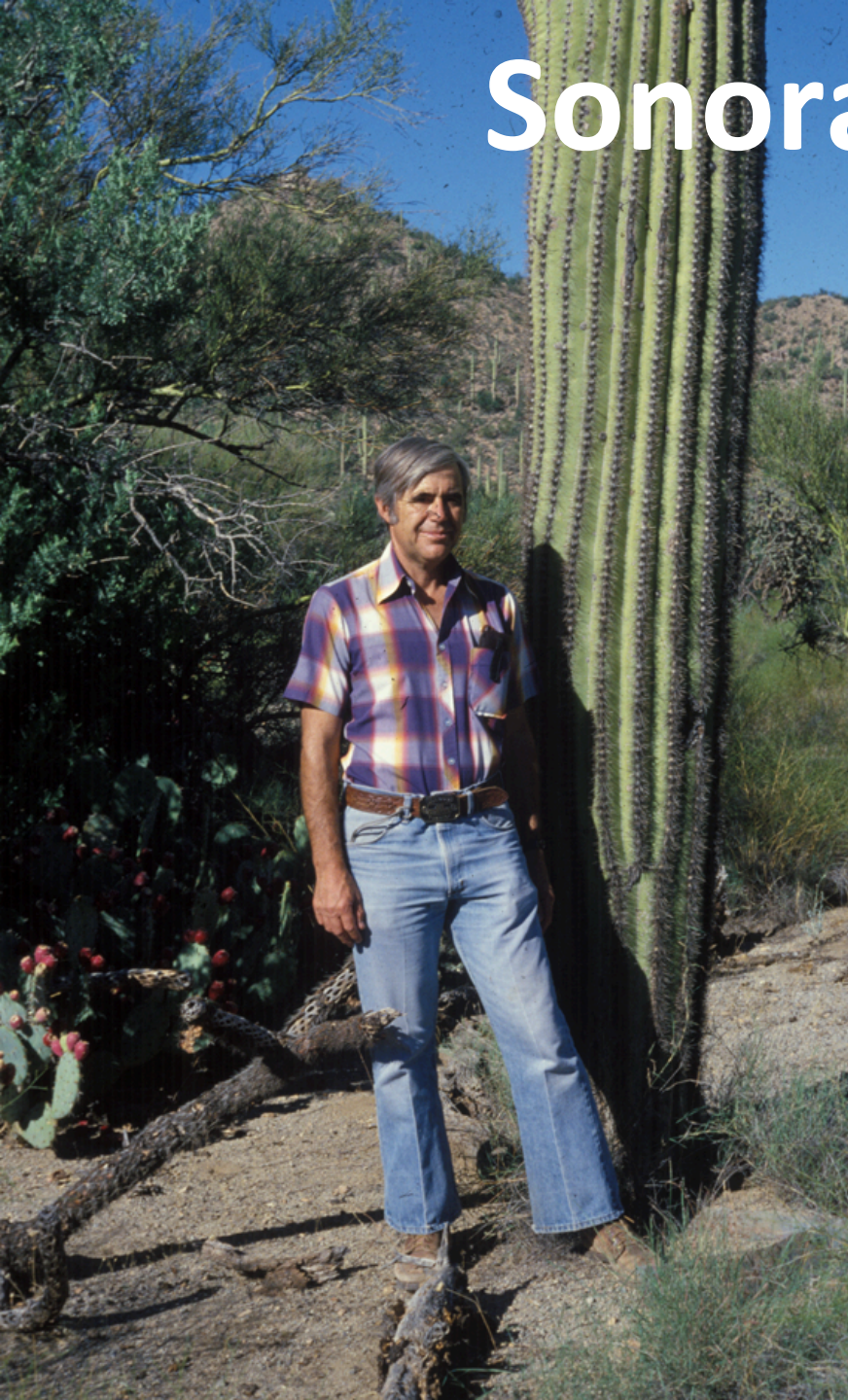
Arizona Oak Forests

**Oak decayed by
Inonotus andersonii at Molino Basin 1987**



Mary Lou Fairweather

Sonoran Desert



Don Hemmes



Don Hemmes



Hawaii



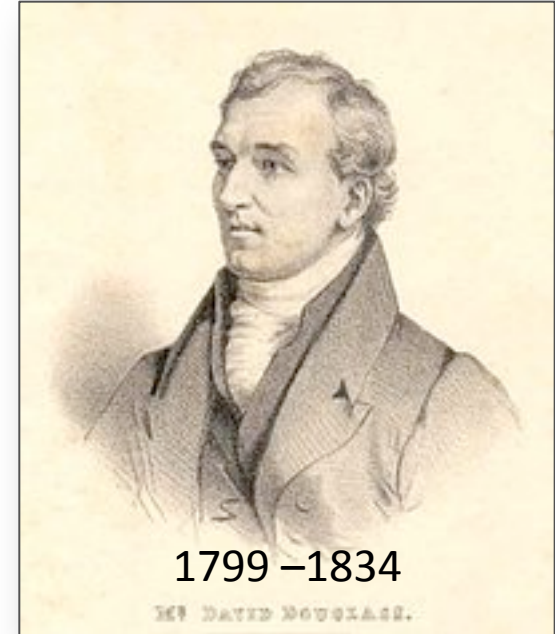
Hawaii

Mixing Collecting and History



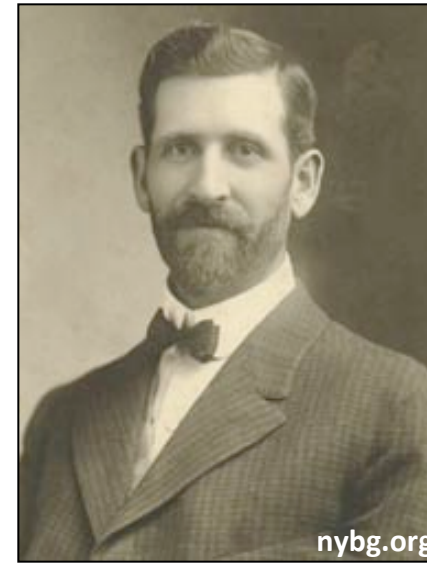
Hawaii

Don Hemmes



**David Douglas Monument
Hilo, Hawaii**

**At the grave of Murrill:
Joe Lowe, Gil, and Ed Setliff
Gainesville, Florida, August 1985**

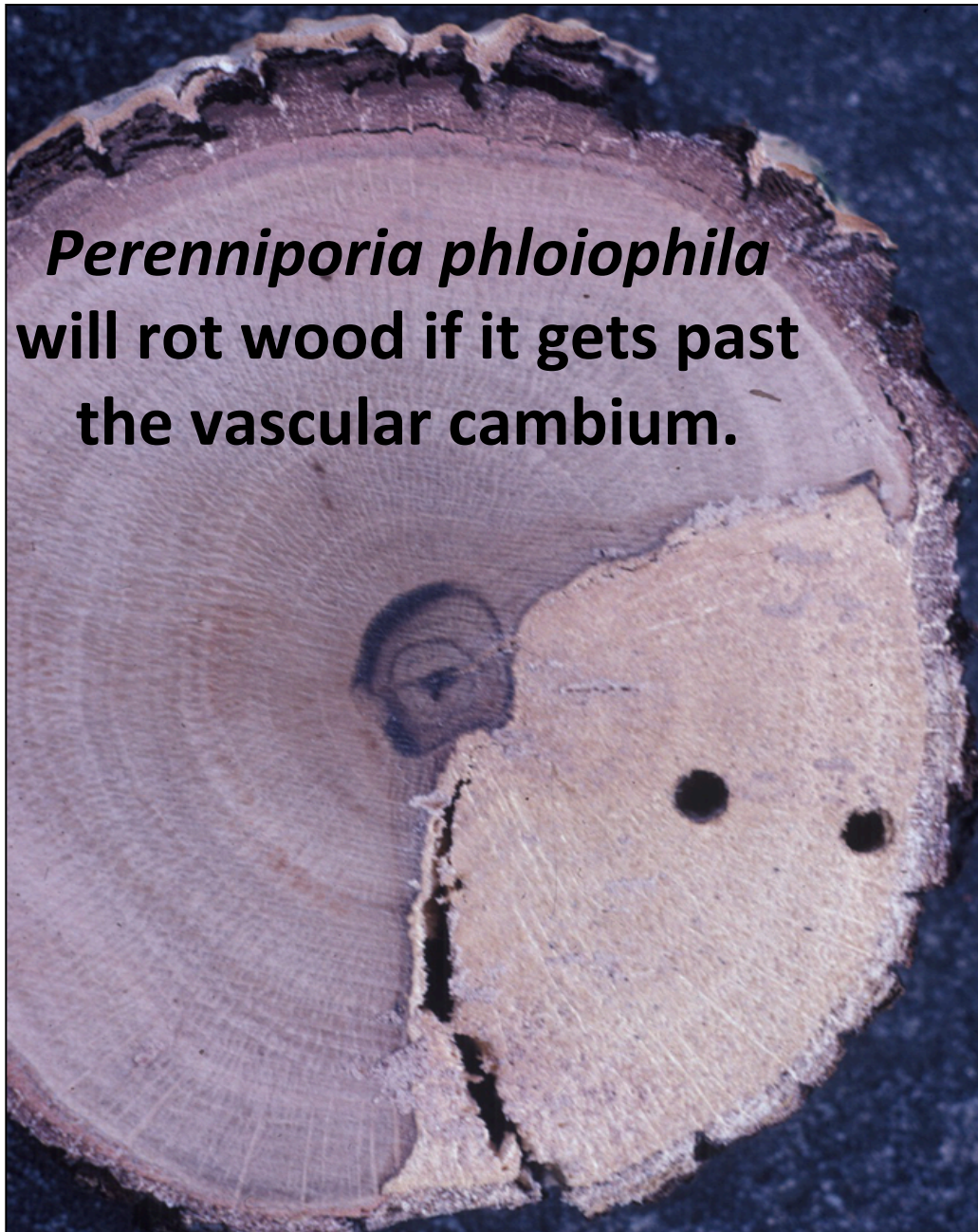


**William Alfonso Murrill
AUTHOR, NATURALIST,
EDITOR**

***Xenosperma murrillii* Gilb.
& M. Blackw., Mycotaxon
28: 400 (1987)**



Gulf Coast



Perenniporia phloiophila
will rot wood if it gets past
the vascular cambium.

Urban collecting

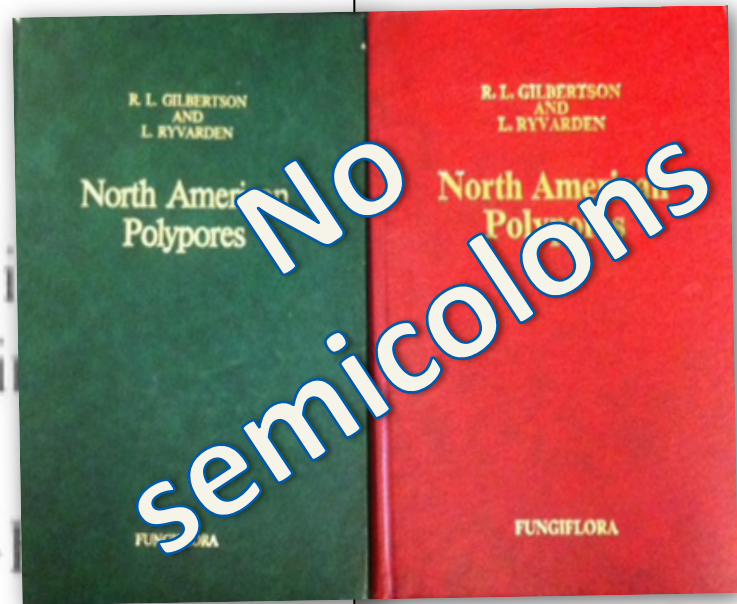
**Aid from campus
grounds keepers:
LSU and Alabama**



150+ pubs
6 books

141. *Fomitopsis cajanderi*
(Karst.) Kotl. et Pouz.,
Česká Mykol. 11:157. 1957.

Basidiocarps perennial, sessile
reflexed or occasionally resupinate
surface at first rose-colored
naceous-Fawn to Vinaceous-
coming pinkish-brown to gray; pore surface
rose-colored; the pores circular
4-5 per mm; context pale pink
hyphal system dimitic; skeletal
brownish in KOH, thick-walled
with occasional branching 3-6



No
semicolons

Return of the
Semicolons

Robert L. Gilbertson
at the
Robert L. Gilbertson
Herbarium



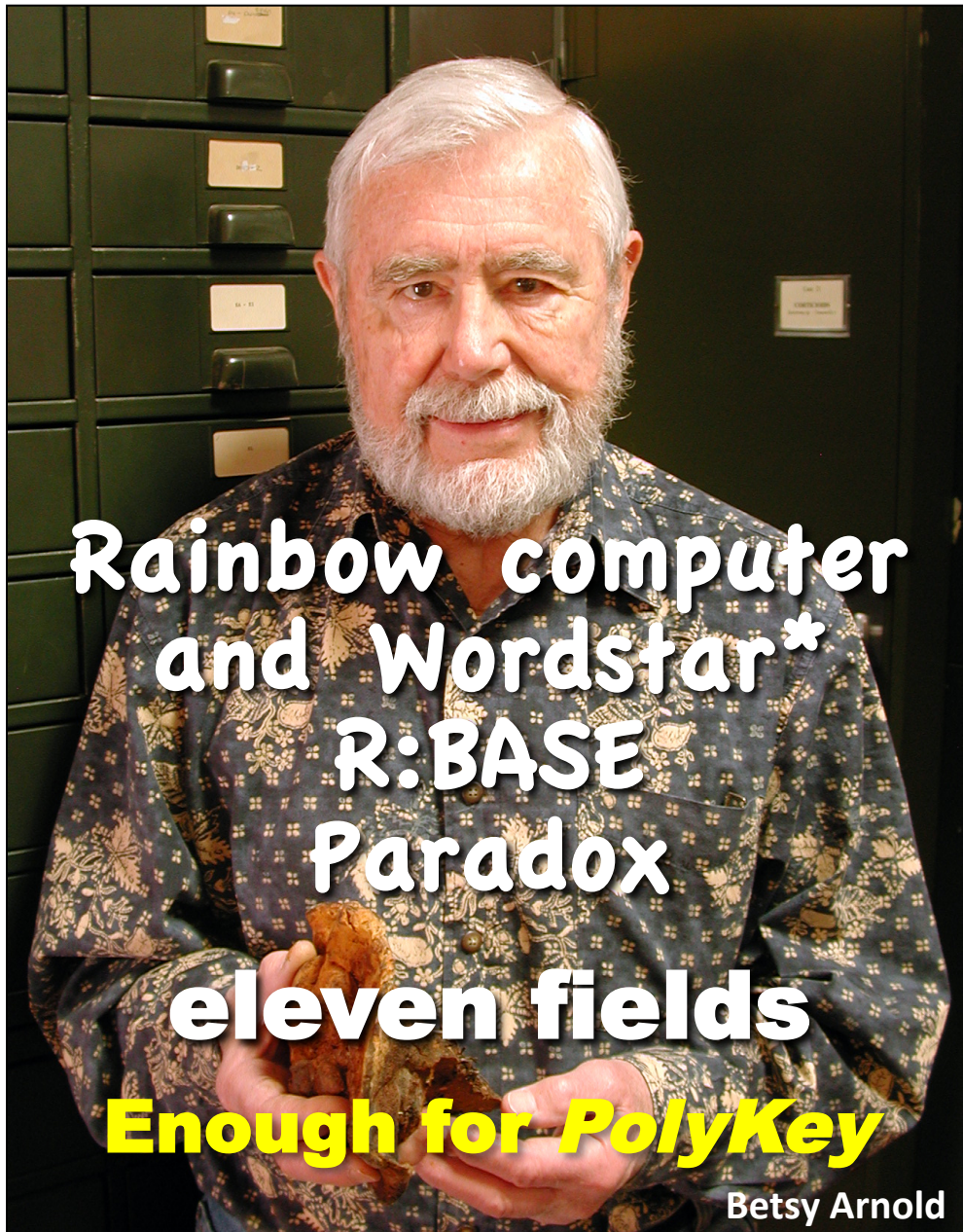
2005

**40,000 specimens
in former gym**

**1967: buy tickets for
football get free
basketball tickets**



Betsy Arnold



*** See the DVD of the herbarium seminar by Gil**

... [Gil] certainly inherited [a challenge]. He began untangling the collection he inherited with dedication, sitting at a lab bench without any assistance to organize and categorize the inventory. I can still see him carefully sorting samples, giving them numbers, folding brown envelopes and labeling them. --Gene Milbrath (Ph.D. UA 1970)

“... I must express my appreciation for the privilege of working at the University of Arizona with two great American mycologists, Wilhelm G. Solheim and George B. Cummins.”

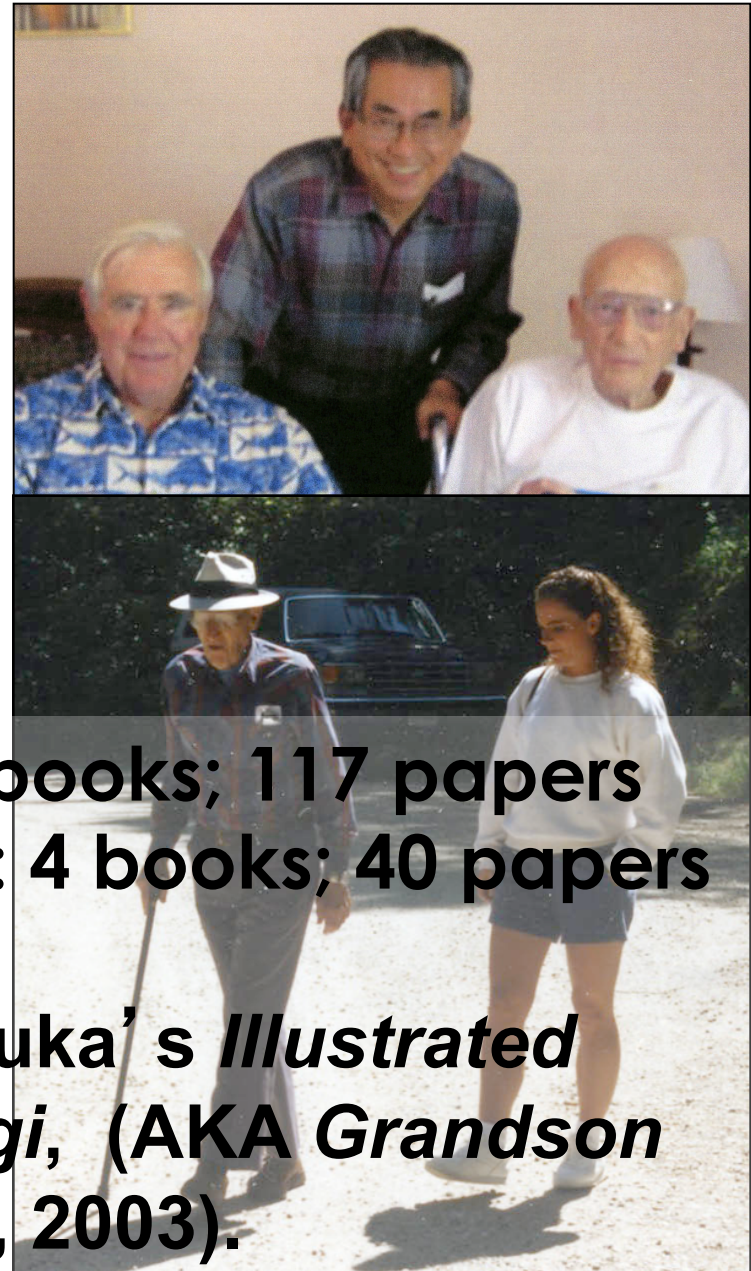
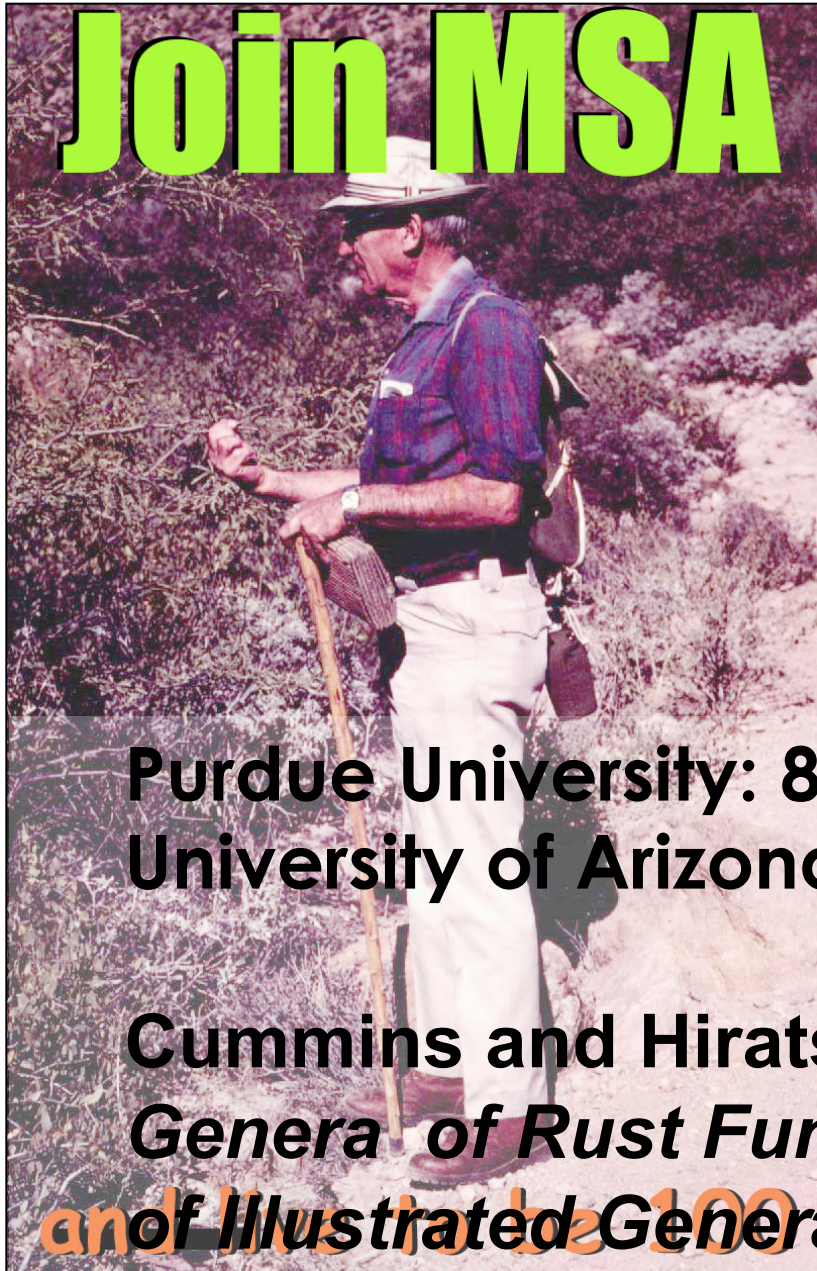
--RLG (1980)



1979. Indexes to W.G. Solheim's Mycoflora Saximontanensis Exsiccata. Mycotaxon 10:49-92 (with G.B. Cummins and E.D. Darnall)

Wilhelm G. Solheim, retired from University of Wyoming; filled in at AZ after Keener's death.

George Cummins



BIG GRIZZLY BEAR fords a stream in the wilds of Montana. Aggressive, awesome, and omnivorous, grizzlies are now found only in the remaining undeveloped portions of the northern Rockies and Alaska, where continuing invasion of their habitat increases the likelihood of conflict -- claws and teeth versus politics and weapons.



Bozeman 8/4/88
Gil: among the "art" objects in the C.M. Russell Museum in G. Falls are 3 gnomes. One is standing on a fruiting body of some polypore, maybe *P. pini* or similar. When you visit there you can check its identity. You can add this to the important uses of your favorites. To Yellowstone tomorrow to put out the fires!
George

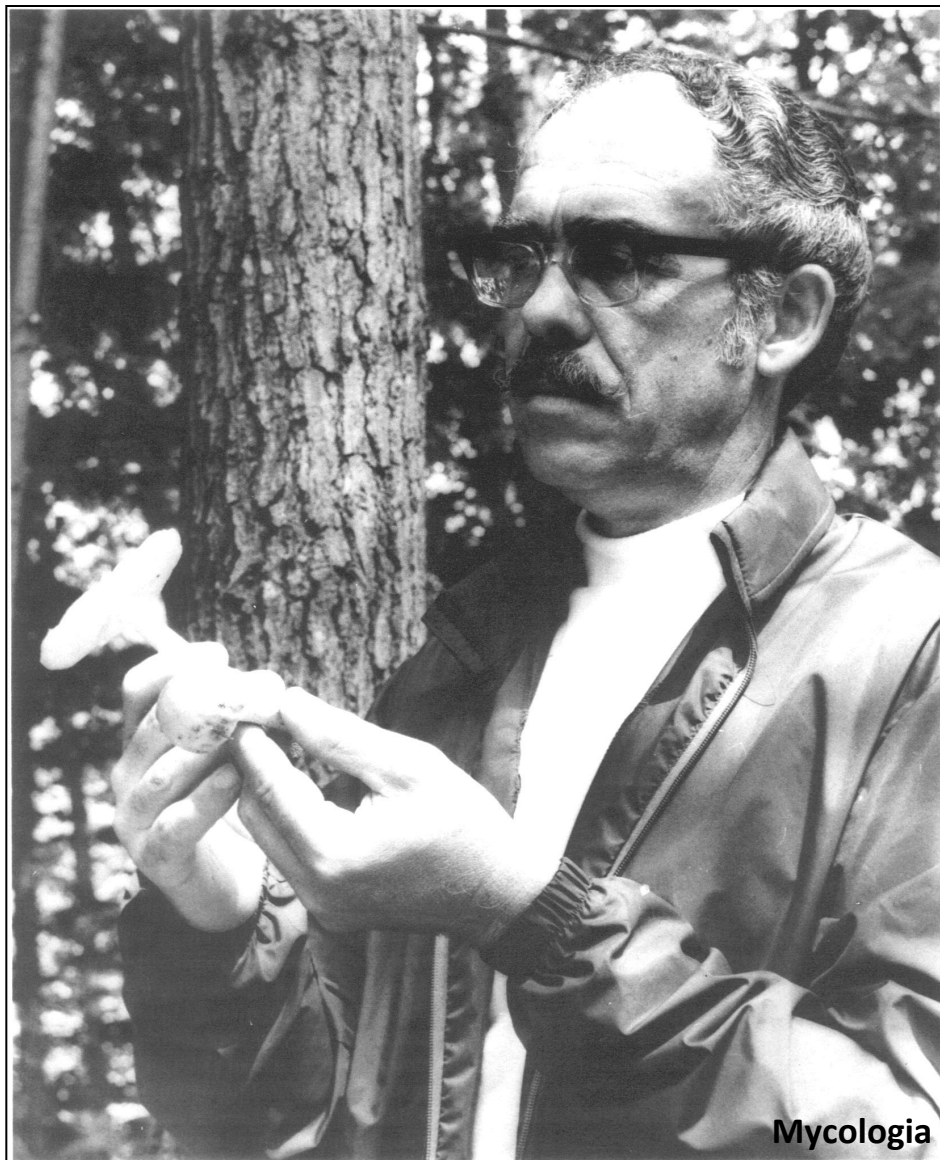
Photograph copyright Tom J. Ulrich, 1986. Published and distributed by Big Sky Magic Enterprises, Helmsville, Montana 59843. Phone (406) 793-5682

post card

G. L. Gilbertson
Dept. of Plant Pathology
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721

BSM-125

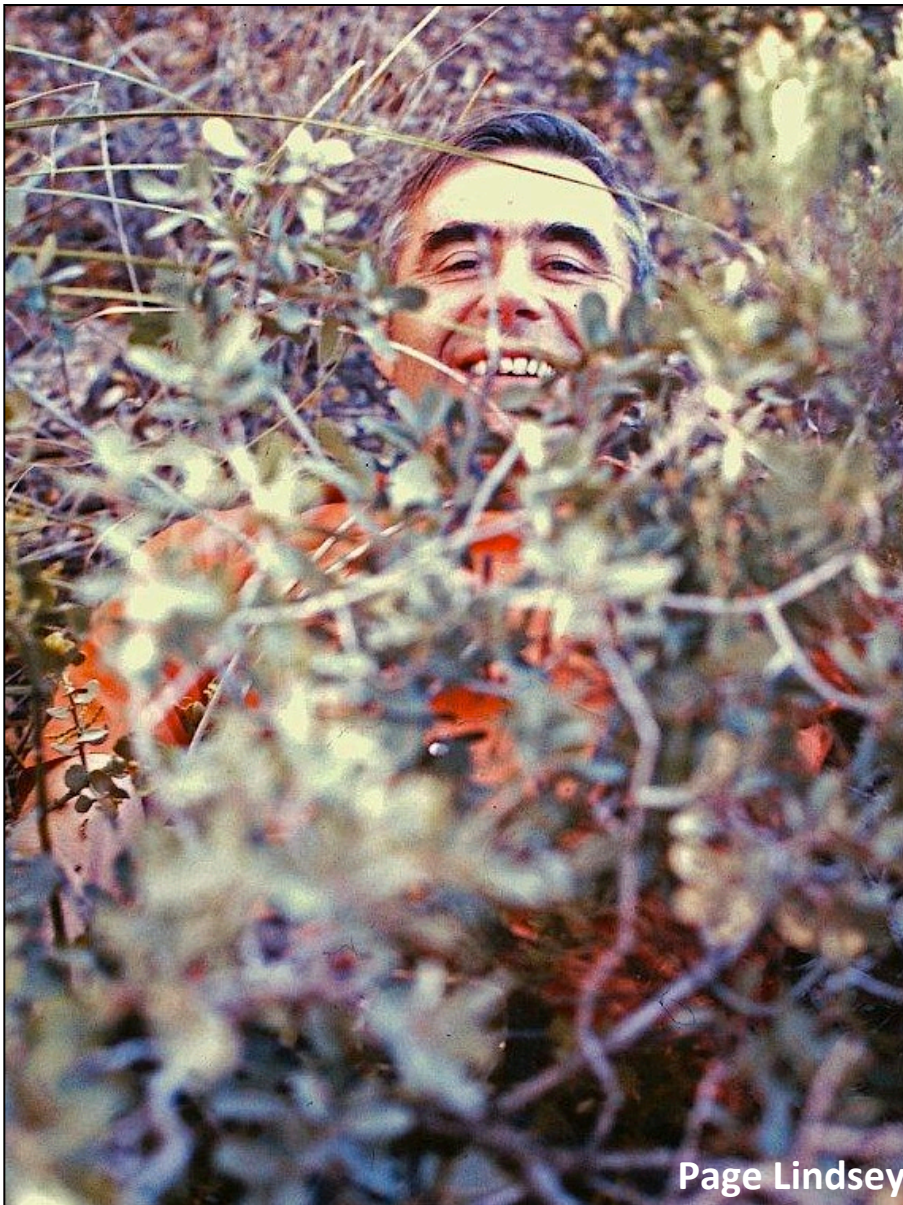
George Cummins's humor shows through in a postcard to his friend, Gil



Howard Edson Bigelow
1923-1987



Margaret Elizabeth Barr Bigelow
1923-2008



Page Lindsey

Pinned to the ground by oak mistletoe



<http://www.fsl.orst.edu/wfiwc/admin/history/mexico-5.htm>

Frank Hawksworth

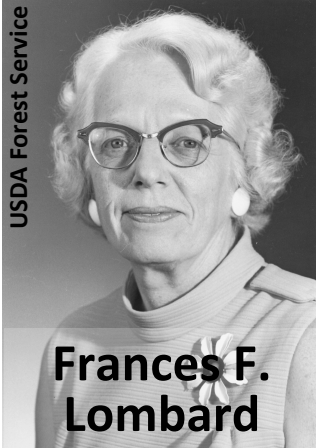
Bear wipe (see brown felt blight)

Neopeckia coulteri and *Herpotrichia juniperi*



Center for Forest Mycology, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison

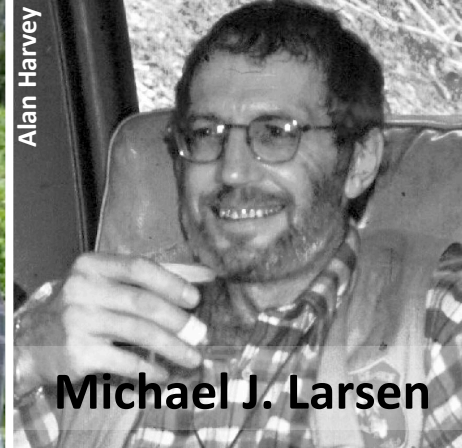
“I thank them for the pleasure of their company.” –RLG (1980)



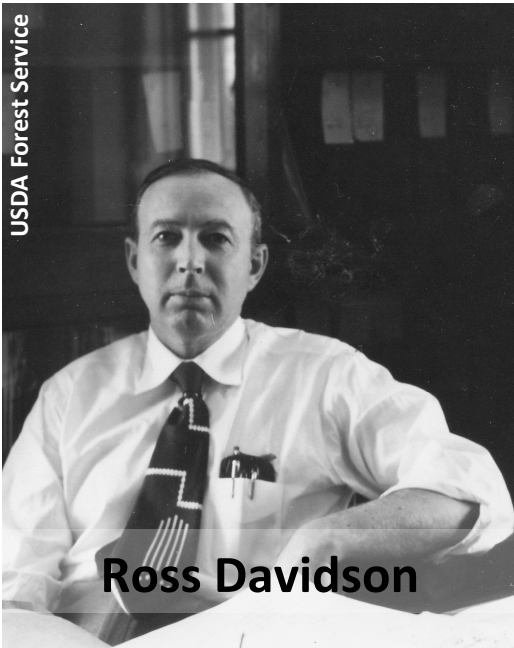
Frances F. Lombard



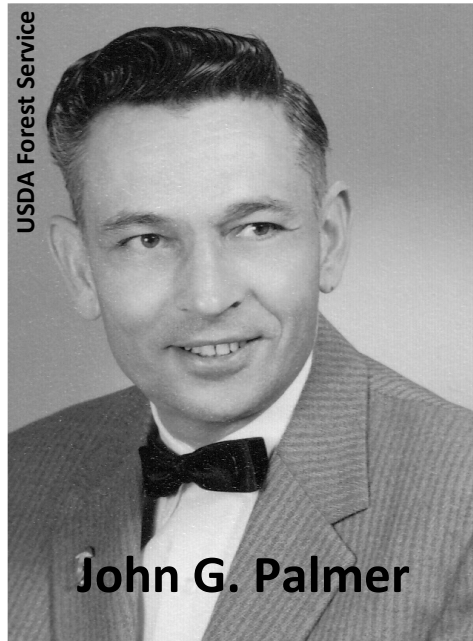
Hal Burdsall



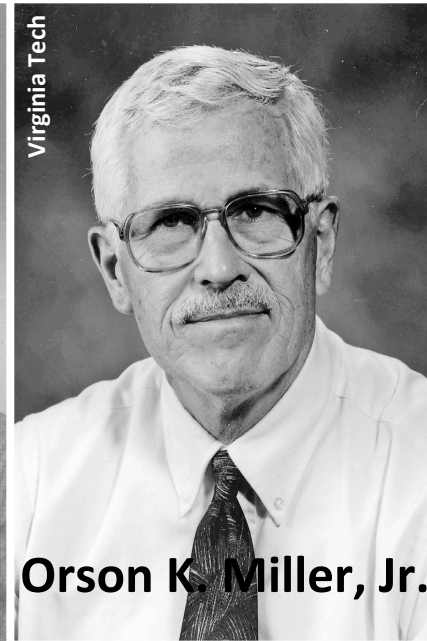
Michael J. Larsen



Ross Davidson



John G. Palmer

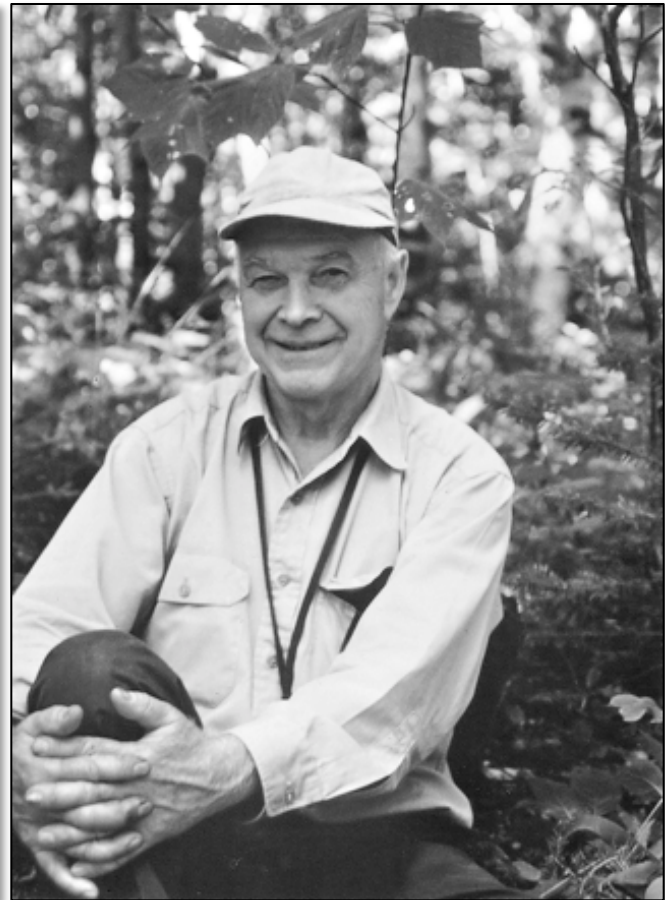


Orson K. Miller, Jr.

“I was fortunate to begin my career by working with two admirable men and incomparable teachers of mycology, Daniel E. Stuntz and Josiah L. Lowe.” **--RLG (1980)**



**Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz
1909-1983**



**Josiah L. Lowe
1905-1997**

Calvin H. Kauffman^[1]

Edwin B. Mains^[2]

Josiah L. Lowe

Robert L. Gilbertson

Gilbertson genealogy: Good mycological stock

Students of Robert L. Gilbertson

University of Idaho

Charles R. Gansel MSF (1957)

William R. Nickle^[3] MSF (1959)

State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse

Henry L. Gross^[4] MS (1963)

Terry L. Amburgey^[5] MS (1965)

Madan M. Pandila PhD (1965)

Michael J. R. Larsen PhD (1967)

University of Arizona

Daniel O. Eboh^[6] MS (1968)

K. Sieglinde Neuhauser^[7] MS (1970)

Douglas C. Rhodes^[8] MS (1972)

Arthur B. Budington^[9]

University of Arizona (continued)

Emroy L. Shannon PhD (1973)

Kenneth J Martin MS (1972), PhD (1974)

J. Page Lindsey PhD (1975)

Rogerio T. de Almeida PhD (1975)

Karen K. Nakasone^[10] MS (1977)

Robert L. Mathiasen PhD (1978)

Donna Goldstein MS (1979)

Karin H. Yohem PhD (1982)

Julieta Carranza (1985)

James E. Adaskaveg MS (1984), PhD (1986)

Anjuwaree Ronaritivichai^[11] MS (1986)

Mary Lou Fairweather MS (1988)

Phyllis T. Himmel PhD (1988)

James J. Flott MS (1990)

Kevin M. McCann^[12] MS (1991)

Donna M. Bigelow MS (1995)

[1] PhD, University of Michigan with J.B. Pollock; worked with R.A. Harper at the University of Wisconsin (1901-1902) and G.F. Atkinson at Cornell University (1902-1904)

[2] Charter member of MSA

[3] PhD, University of California at Davis with M. Allen

[4] PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison with R.F. Patton

[5] PhD, North Carolina State University with E.B. Cowling

[6] PhD, University of Toronto with R.F. Cain

[7] PhD, Harvard University with J.R. Raper

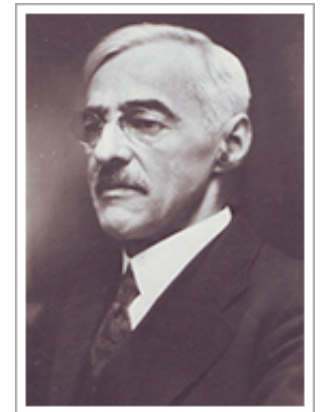
[8] DDS, University of Southern California

[9] Published with R.L. Gilbertson (1970, 1973) but did not receive a degree

[10] PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison with K.J. Sytsma

[11] PhD, State University of New York, Stonybrook

[12] PhD in education in progress, Kansas State University





Festschrift Celebration 18 May 2001

“I must thank my students, who have given me more than I have given them.”

–RLG (1980)

Festschrift Celebration



**Deb Young, Judy Brown
Cydney Loggins, Mary Pfeiffer, Mike
Pfeiffer, Mary Olsen, Roger Caldwell
Bob Mathiasen**



**Karen Nakasone
Donna Bigelow
Page Lindsey**



Jim Adaskaveg

Larry Stowell, Wendy Gelernter



Angie Burris, Mike Pfeiffer, Jim Adaskaveg



Bob Mathiasen, Larry Stowell, RLG, Mary Pfeiffer, Cydney Loggins



Festschrift Celebration

Festschrift Celebration

The next day at Mount Lemmon

Bob Mathiasen, Karen Nakasoni, Donna Bigelow, Page Lindsey

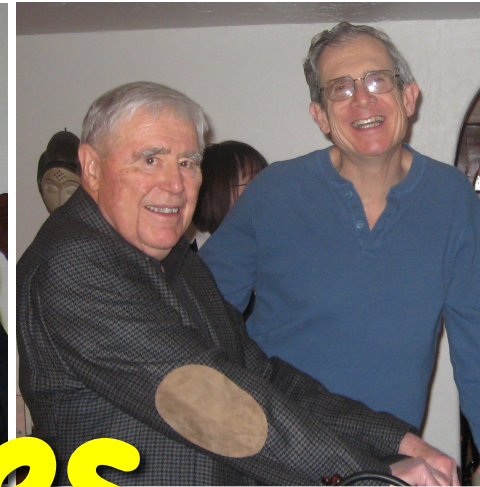


Festschrift Celebration



And dinner that evening

**George Cummins, Bob Mathiasen, Mildred Cummins; RLG
Karen Nakasone, Page Lindsey**



Other parties



Peter J. Cotty

We had a great day in La Jolla with you [Celia] and Gil a few years ago. ...Gil was so happy to be with you and his new eye brows made him look fantastic - your influence I'm sure. ... I am sure you are going to hear this over and over and you, more than anyone knows how special Gil was. ... I am so happy to have been one of Gil's students and friends. ... it will be wonderful to visit with some of the other people whose lives Gil touched. ... I just have a warm comfortable feeling when I remember Gil. He was so friendly and so packed with knowledge and so willing to share. What a wonderful world we would live in if everyone were just a little more like Gil. --Larry Sowell and Wendy

Gil is as good as they come. --Philip Jenkins

Gil was an important inspiration for me to become a forest pathologist for both his knowledge of mycology and his humanity.

--Brian Geils

I will be thinking of Gil a lot that day. He was a great graduate professor and friend over the years.--Bob Mathiasen

I have many fond memories of Gil. The two years I spent in Tucson getting my masters degree under Gil were some of the best years of my life.

--Karen Nakasone

... when I worked in the dept on sabbatical leave during the 1980's, ... I felt like a stranger. However, Gil made me feel at home by showing me his mycological work and by taking me on an excursion with the mycology students. --John Mildenhall

Thanks for this invitation. I was his best Mexican student from 1981-1983 and he help me to identify the most important fungus affecting agriculture in Sonora, Mexico. Dr. Gilbertson was a great scientist and friend, even if he never spoke to me a word of Spanish.

--Cosme Guerrero Ruiz (Hermosillo))



Joan Gilbertson Starn

- ◆ I'll miss: my dad requesting his cookies 'over-baked'....
- ◆ I'll miss: playing dominoes with my dad.....
- ◆ I'll miss: him asking me to model my new school clothes and occasional outfit, and telling me how pretty I looked and what good taste I had
- ◆ I'll miss: him telling me what kind of birds are at the bird feeders...
- ◆ I'll miss: how beautiful he thought the sunrise or sunset was.....
- ◆ I'll miss: going for walks with dad.....
- ◆ I'll miss: seeing him doze off while reading, or doing a cross-word puzzle.....
- ◆ I'll miss: him asking about how his grandkids are doing...
- ◆ I'll miss: hearing his voice on our phone message recorder saying: "Hi, it's just me...."



Park, Kelsey, Nick, and Jeannie Gilbertson



Gil and Nick



Mike and Mary Pfeiffer

BASIDIOMYCETES
THAT DECAY ASPEN
IN NORTH AMERICA

by

J. PAGE LINDSEY

and

ROBERT L. GILBERTSON

With 12 plates
and 260 figures in the text



1978 · J. CRAMER
In der A.R. Gantner Verlag Kommanditgesellschaft
FL-9490 VADUZ



Page Lindsey



**David Hibbett
MSA President**

Science moves fast, and most publications do not have lasting impact. Dr. Gilbertson's work remains highly relevant today. For example, in 2011 Dr. Gilbertson's classic 1980 paper *Wood Rotting Fungi of North America* was cited in studies on fungal taxonomy, evolution,

ecology, physiology, genomics, proteomics, and climate change biology. For a paper to be cited in such a wide range of articles more than thirty years after its publication is truly remarkable and it reflects the broad impact of Dr. Gilbertson's work.

“He was one of our legends.”



1975 WIFDWC

Gil was one of the founding members of the 60-year old organization, WIFDWC.

--Mary Lou Fairweather



Don Hemmes



Michael Wood, MykoWeb

Dennis E. Desjardin and Don Hemmes

Santa Claus in Hawaii

Gil's dry wit

**A Clean Desk is the Sign
of a Weak Mind**



The first time I met Gil was at the Insect Fungus Symposium at Cornell. Gil asked me what "Bob" was up to, and I starting to run off the list of things that Bob Fogel was doing. **"Well thanks for the update on Bob Fogel, but I was asking about Bob Shaffer."**

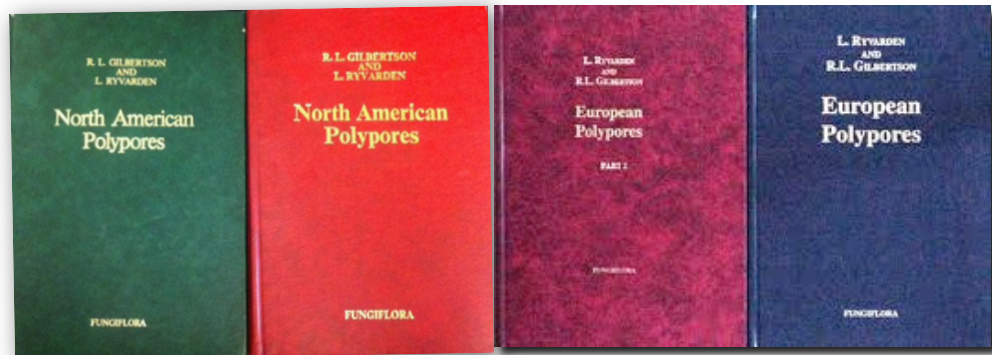
--Tom Bruns (Berkeley)

Gil's delivery was everything... He could land it with great effect, and the intent was clear if you were in the room. He really was a master at delivering the straight-faced line.

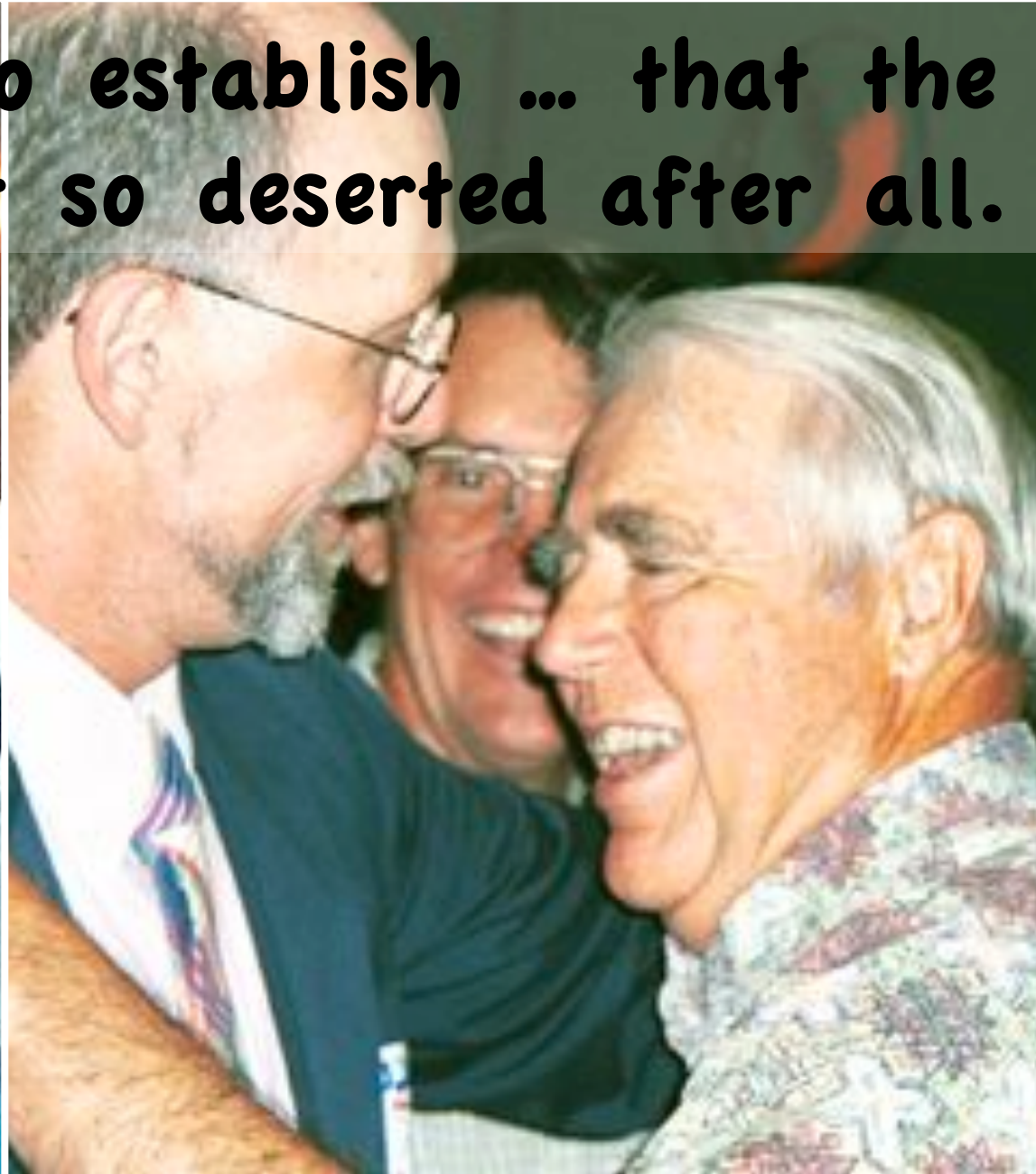
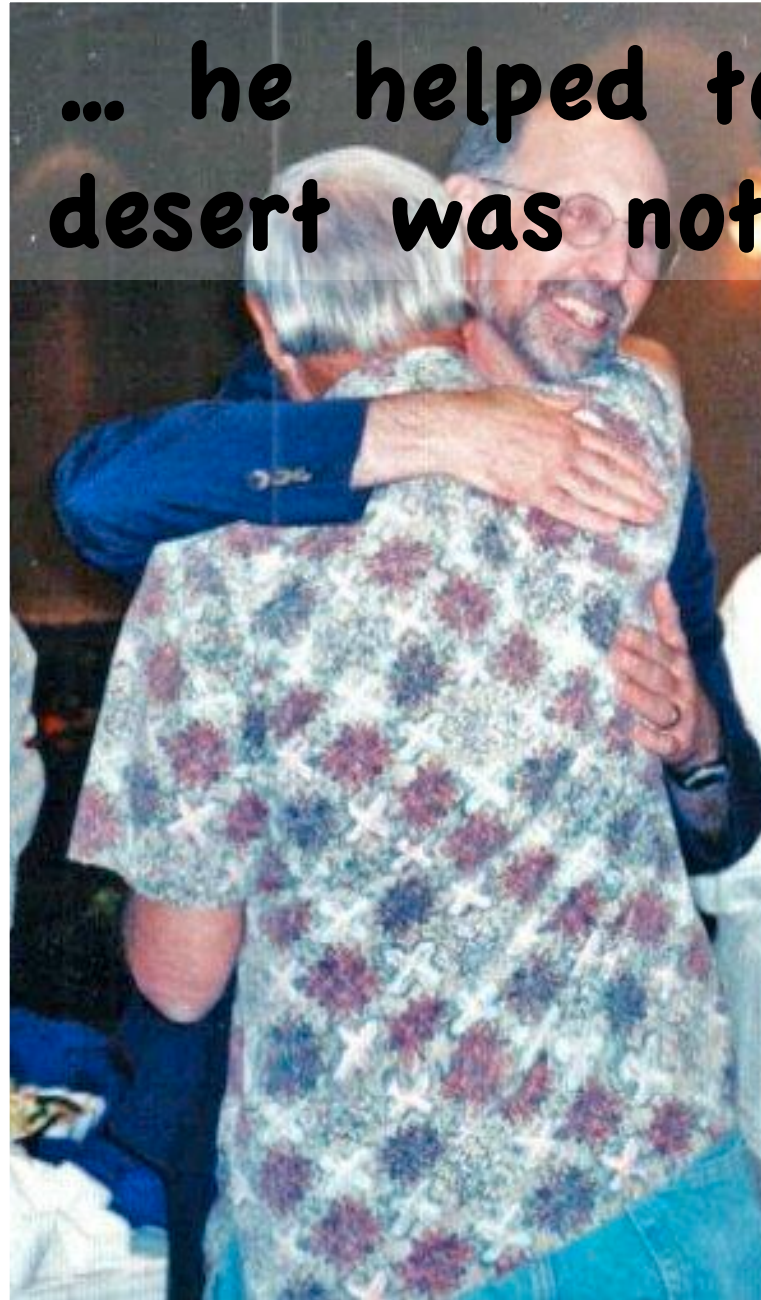
Leif Ryvarden



Bob and I had many fine days together both in the field and the lab, both here in Oslo when he and Pat stayed here 3 months while we wrote European polypores and in Tucson. I will always think about him as a fine and honest man. I am sure that you will have a fine day, and be grateful for all you shared with him.



**... he helped to establish ... that the
desert was not so deserted after all.**



Don Pfister and Gil



**Jack Rogers (Regents
Professor, WSU)**

***He was the best
field mycologist
that I have known.***

***May he rest in peace.
If there is a hereafter,
he is now in the
presence of Elias
Fries, L. O. Overholts,
and Josiah Lowe. He
belongs to the ages.***

Don Hemmes

Robert Lee Gilbertson

Mycological Superman

1925-2011



“... in the words of Robert Louis Stevenson, ‘to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour.’” --RLG (1980)