

KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

(Provincetown) Now that the Statue of Liberty has gone to Australia for a two week vacation of lying on the beach and long naps, we can all go back to our routines. The summer routine of mushroom hunting is scheduled the two days after the rain. In September and October, it is steadier and more predictable. But summer mushrooms can surprise you by either sudden abundance or rarity. Peter Hutchinson phoned for an identification appointment, gentleman, and mycologist that he is.

I had it more or less identified on the phone from Peter's description. The genus was most probably *Pluteus*, gills free from the stem, adnexed. The stem could be detached easily from the cap. The larger specimen's gills were turning a pink or salmon color. The cap was viscid and it was two to two-and-a-half inches broad, bell-shaped when young, flattening with age. Stem nearly solid, brittle, found on a tree stump with some sawdust. Peter really had trouble describing the color of the cap, grey? Brown, greyish-brown? I suggested he take a spore print, another means of identifying mushrooms. If the spore print would come out pink or salmon and velvet-like it was a *Pluteus* and I was suspecting species *Cervinus* or fawn-colored. *Pluteus* means shed in Latin. That refers to the color. The fawn-colored *Pluteus*, well, Peter Hutchinson and I made an appointment for 5:00 the next day to finalize the identification. He called first. As I said, ever the gentleman, Peter arrived with an A&P bag of mycelic pleasure. Spore print in hand, and a beautiful one, salmon-colored and velvety, proved, along with a thorough inspection of cap, stem and gills, that the mushroom was a *Pluteus cervinus*. Edible—so we shared them. We usually only eat one the first day, just in case. But, of course, if you eat one and feel safe and next day eat the rest and it happens to be one of those that kills you in seven days, you can tell the doctor, "I'm going to get a lot worse." There may be no one to pay the bill.

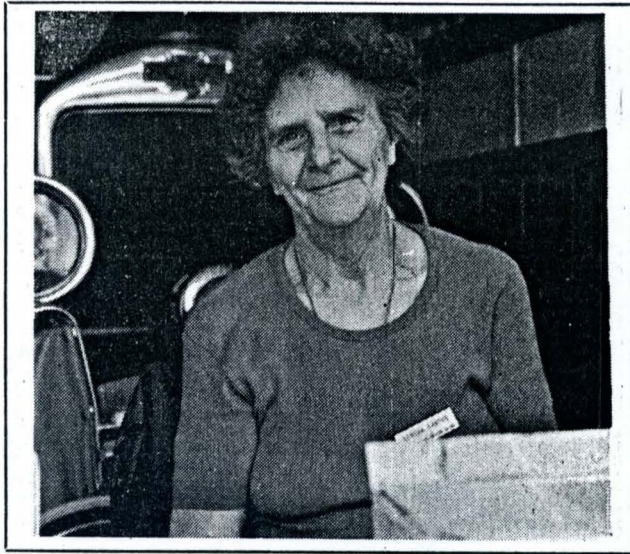
The taste and consistency was good—a mild flavor, it would absorb flavors easily. Peter and I have been stump hunting since—curious point—these *Pluteus cervinus* were found on a stump that has sprouted *Coprinus micaceus*, commonly called ink caps since they disintegrate into an ink-like liquid, for years. But if all the spores of one species are exhausted, another species may grow on that same stump from dormant spores, cyclical nature.

A stroll down Commercial Street has variety to offer that could rival a Medina or a New York avenue. During the year it's true if you're attuned. During the season at times you're trying to tune it out. But mostly it's enjoyable. That constant change of the same things



Marti Knapp

still keeps the energy flowing, human beings, looking at human beings. One thing that hasn't changed in 18 years is Bertha Santos at her post, the Fire Department's headquarters next to Town Hall. From noon to 7:30 early summer, and noon to 10:30 pm, at the height of summer, Mrs. Santos sits and sells raffle tickets for the Rescue Squad. Bertha Santos started this job in 1968 after the death of her husband. Mr. Santos was a Rescue Squad volunteer and Bertha always accompanied him. By selling these tickets every day from the first of May to the end of July, Bertha can still help the Rescue Squad. In fact, they've made her an Honorary Member. Sometimes you'll see Bertha assisted by her children and grandchildren. Bertha has four children, twenty grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Her daughter Mary works at the Portuguese Bakery, son Manny works at the lumberyard, Francis lives in Truro and works for Cape Cod Ready Mix, and Vernon lives in Hyannis. Her grandson Jimmy Martinez is a member of the Rescue Squad and the Fire Department. This is Bertha's preferred work and she's good at it. Last year, though she was ill for two weeks, she raised \$914. She has \$800 so far this year as of the end of June and this year the tickets were late. The raffle will be held on the last Saturday in July. The prizes will be a \$100 Savings Bond, Mass Lottery tickets, dinners for two, afghans, etc. It helps a worthy cause, our ever reliable and valiant Rescue



Bertha Santos

Squad. You'll see Bertha Santos at all the cake sales and raffles. The rest of her time, Bertha spends peacefully at home. She enjoys the company of her family and two television shows: *Jeopardy* and *Wheel of Fortune*. "And then I'm in my bed," Bertha reports. When asked if she were paid for this time and labor, Bertha Santos said, "The pay is in my heart. If they paid me I would tell them to keep my job. I do it for the Rescue Squad."

Another sight along the strip is a new sidewalk artist set-up. It's called Pilgrim Studio. Marti Knapp sits daily from 11 am working on and tending her art as well as Linda Schlechter's art. This is a Provincetown first. You can buy a reasonable piece of art, figure Marti and Linda, without resorting to a pot boiler. The method is simple. The artist works on a drawing until it is perfected. The chosen drawing is duplicated by offset print. Then it is hand painted on the spot. You can even dictate your color choices, all at once or as you go. There are bay scenes, Monument scenes, a g.d.l. G-D—Lighthouse scene as Harvey Dodd refers to that particular example of his bread and butter paintings, and a scene from a historic postcard. The resulting pictures can be bought framed or unframed and the frames are of walnut and oak. These are good ideas for Xmas or birthdays and will be moments old when you get them. How all this got started, is that Marti wanted to give her mother a gift. Mom preferred a little color to the monastic strictness of black and white, so the drawing was colored in to please. From there the idea grew. The Pilgrim Studio or Frames Alfresco is situated in front of Outermost Kites, across from the Crown & Anchor. The sidewalk stand also features an occasional guest artist. Make a

stop as you're strolling by.

Only in New England can you be under a much needed electric blanket at 6 am, listening to the day's weather report *oppressive heat and humidity by this afternoon—in the 90's*. Schizophrenic weather.

The last Sunday in July, that is July 27th, is a date you will want to mark in red. Then you will be insisting to yourself that you not miss WOMR's Annual Community Auction. There will be 250 auction items displayed for your inspection at 1 pm. The Auction will start at 3 pm. The place is The Universalist Meeting House across from Whaler's Wharf. There will be many works of art: oils, watercolors, prints, and photographs. There are antiques and collectibles: pottery, jewelry, art objects and 50's antiques. There will be gift certificates from restaurants, guest houses, clothing stores, and various specialty services, such as massage, karate/or tennis lessons, dune tours, and car tune-ups. The selection is of impressive and useful items. Not only can you or someone you know use every thing offered but you will be helping a good cause. If you are reading this and thinking about something you would like to give to the Auction, something valuable to someone but extra to you, you may and can donate it. You can call Carol D'Amico at 487-1782 or at 487-2619. Carol will make arrangements for your donation to be picked up. And then show up yourself July 27th, rain or shine. You'll be comfortable and sheltered, a good way to spend money. The guest auctioneers will be Pam Genevrino and Linda Gerard, formerly of the Pied Piper Lounge and presently of Pied Piper Realty. There will be a cash bar, brunch table, and local entertainers will display the auction items.

There is something new about the Auction this year. WOMR is raising money for the station but is also sharing the wealth. To show gratitude to the community which is so supportive, WOMR has included the Animal Shelter, the Provincetown Center for Martial Arts, and the Provincetown Truro Youth Hockey League. Sixty percent of the auction proceeds will go to WOMR and forty percent will be divided among these three non-profit organizations. So you can obtain an original work of art, a gift certificate from various shops, a room for company, a most nurturing and soothing massage, help on your serve and volley and enjoy food, drink, entertainment and all your friends. You can enjoy the summer crowd and the winter crowd all at once. You can also enjoy the beautiful building and the trompe d'oeil upstairs. I'll see you there. It will be fun, interesting, and profitable, WOMR's Annual Community Auction, July 27, preview at 1 pm, auction at 3 pm. Call Carol D'Amico for further details.