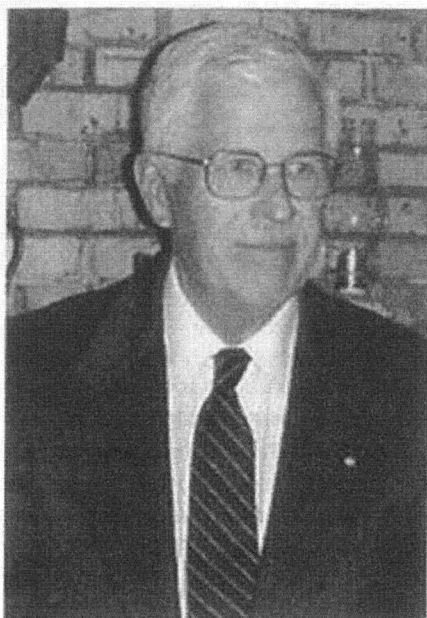


OBITUARY — Orson Miller



Orson Knapp Miller, Jr, 75, of McCall, Idaho, passed away on Friday, June 9, 2006.

Orson was born on December 19, 1930 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He graduated in Forestry from the University of Massachusetts in 1948; earned a Masters of Forestry 1957; and a PhD in Botany (Mycology) in 1963 from the University of Michigan.

After enlisting in the Army in 1952, he began his professional career with the U.S. Forest Service as a Research Botanist studying fungi of the United States. He returned to his love of teaching at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg VA in 1970. One of his greatest joys was seeing his 32 graduate students achieve successes in teaching and industry worldwide. Orson is noted for his research around the world. He described over 100 species of fungi new to science, wrote more than 150 research papers, wrote 8 books and conducted ecological research in Asia, the Greater Antilles, Belize, the Arctic, Europe and Australia as well as North America. He was engaged in Biodiversity studies in

Belize and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park at the time of his death. As a result of his travels and studies he has made over 28,000 collections of fungi. Each collection includes a dried specimen, color photographs, a detailed description and in some cases cultures, all located under one collection number. These are located in major herbaria of the world with most of them in the United States. He taught for 14 summers at the University of Montana Biological Station on Flathead Lake. Orson and Hope completed a book just before his death for Falcon Press entitled *North American Mushrooms, a Field Guide to Edible and Inedible Fungi*.

Orson was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and past president of the Mycological Society of America (MSA). He received from MSA the William Weston Award for Teaching Excellence in 1989 and Distinguished Mycologist Award in 1997; The Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science from the Virginia Natural History Museum and the North American Mycological Association Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology in 1981. At the time of his death he was a Professor Emeritus of Botany at Virginia Tech.

Orson is survived by his wife, Hope, his daughters Andrea Onken (Todd), Annelise Mayer (Ken), Ginny Miller (Tad Kolwicz), and 5 grandchildren Erin Bromm, Cory Mayer, Lindsay Mayer, Logan Onken, and Brook Vetter.

A private family service will be held later this summer. The family suggests memorials to be given to the Mycological Society of America Endowment Fund in the Name of Orson K. Miller, Jr. This will be for Graduate Student Travel. Please send to Dr Thomas Harrington, MSA Endowment Chair, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames IA 50011.