

Hi Loves:

I'm having mustard tea -- that is, tea made out of Shepard's Purse, which is a weed that grows in everyone's backyard just about and is related to the mustard green plant. It's supposed to stimulate sluggish kidneys. I don't have sluggish kidneys, but we have lots of Shepard's Purse, so I thought I'd try it. I'm on an edible weed kick.

Last week I got a book at the library called STALKING THE WILD ASPARAGAS and ~~XXXXXX~~ another called FREE FOR THE EATING -- both about how to identify and cook wild plants. The best thing I've found with the help of the books so far is Wild Spinach -- also known as Lamb's Quarter, Pigweed, and Goosefoot. It grows in the field right next to us and tastes better than any other green you can name. We've already had it three times this week and I'm going to start having it every day.

I've also found a number of promising looking stuff on my ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ expeditions here and there, including some beans, what may be Carob pods, what may be purselane, and what may be mountain sorrel -- all of which I'm holding off on until positive identification can be made. Also we found some wild grapes, but they're not many left on the vine this late in the year.

Today was the first autumnal day. One of those times when it is a sin not to have a fireplace, a pipe, some tea, some pop corn, a good book and a couple of cats. We have the cats -- and the tea!

I had my first run-in with bad bugs, excepting fire ants, the other day when I went goofing off down to the railroad ~~XXXXXX~~ bridge with my 14' bamboo pole and no OFF. The gnats gnawed me to pieces -- little did I know they can bite just like misquitoses! Well, now I (pardon me while I scratch) know, and next time I go fishing it'll be heavily armed with repellent. I didn't catch any fish, either -- but I've been reading up on that and I'll be doing better now that I know some of the things I've been doing wrong.

Yes, you can give our address to anyone.

I've written a couple of pieces which are just bitchin' and I've also been knocking out a lot of short fillers. No mail has been sent on to us from our box yet, so I don't know how I did on my Valyermo article or another short piece I had out on almost a sure bet. Nor have I heard from Escapade, through my folks' address, on the Jimson weed thing yet. But things never happen fast if a piece is getting close consideration -- I always say, over and over as I wait.

Hey, there is a good chapter about acorns in STALKING THE WILD ASPARAGAS!

Do you know where I could get a list of all the members of the UPS, with their addresses? I wrote the FP, but knowing them I'll probably not get an answer -- they're just like the Gentle Folk about their mail. I'm going to start writing and self-syndicating a free weekly column, which (unless I can think of a better name) will be called "Incarnations" -- mostly character sketches of different groovy people I've met at one time or another.

Love you all. Wrtie soon. Hey, and that tea really does stimulate your kidneys -- even if they aren't sluggish. LOVE:

