Purrsonal Mewsings #57

#57 March 2017

Purrsonal Mewsings, formerly *Feline Journal* and *Feline Mewsings* is a personal/genzine I hope to publish every six weeks by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; 520-275-6511, Laurraine@mac.com, http://www.weasner.com/. It is distributed through StippleAPA and sent to other friends and family. It is available for the usual (a response of any kind, including letters, e-mail, and phone calls of comment; trade; contributions of illos, fiction, or articles; or even money: $5.00 per issue). The zine will be placed on the web shortly after paper publication; please let me know if you prefer just to read the web version. I can also e-mail this in Word or rtf format. Kattesminte Press #469. ©2017 R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Permission is granted to reprint or forward any part or all of this newsletter created by the editor provided that it carries the following statement: "Copyright 2017 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Purrsonal Mewsings* #57, http://www.weasner.com/laurraine/Felinemewsings/index.html." All other material is copyrighted by their respective creators, and they should be contacted for any reprint permission.

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Art and Photo Credits

Cover photo—our bird feeder setup
Title page header—Sheryl Birkhead
Photos p. 2, 3—Mike Weasner

Contributions of art, reviews, articles, fiction, letters, even poetry welcome. Publication not guaranteed, but all submissions will be given due consideration.

[ ] if this box is checked, I need to hear from you if you wish to stay on my mailing list.

If you are reading this electronically and would prefer to receive a printed version, please let me know. Or vice versa.

* Editorial / Introduction

This issue includes only local events.

* * *

* Local Outings

A Dog's Purpose: This movie tells a story from a dog's point of view with the added dimension that the dog is reborn several times. Each time the dog is of a different breed or a mutt, and at least one reincarnation is as a female dog. The first reincarnation we see is very short-lived; the dog is a stray and is quickly caught by the dog-catcher. The next reincarnation is more interesting, and we become well-acquainted with the dog's owner and his family. I think there were two or three reincarnations after that with different people. Finally the dog is reborn as a puppy who seems destined to live a life of neglect. However he is eventually released far away from that home. He decides to go back to the owner he had several lives ago.

This movie is for all animal lovers. I found the film very touching without being melodramatic. The lives lived by the dog in different reincarnations seems fairly realistic from what I know about the lives of dogs.

* * *

* Kritter Korner

Toward the end of February we were raided by javalina. Well, Mike saw a group of them one evening as he walked back from his observatory. They were milling around where I had the quail block and bird feeders. The next day the quail block was nowhere to be found; I had just put it out a couple of days before. In the morning Mike saw the javelina chewing on the lower limbs of my potted orange tree; I had been thinking of pruning those branches, but they saved me the trouble!

* * *

* Astronomy

Below is a montage made up of photos Mike took in 2016:

* * *

* Reviews: reviews without attribution are by the editor

Eternity's Mind, by Kevin J. Anderson

This is the final volume in "The Saga of Shadows" trilogy. This novel ties up all the loose threads but not without a lot of bumps. I found the trilogy as a whole very entertaining and satisfying. This third volume was crammed full of action on several fronts. The author successfully managed to tie things up while avoiding becoming too predictable.

#

The Fool's Illusion, by Steven Rose, Jr.

This is a collection of short stories of a genre that is difficult to identify; I'd classify the stories as fantasy. The title short story, "The Fool's Illusion", is very strange, even bizarre. It starts out being about a magician's trick but becomes stranger when the use of an ancient Egyptian magic spell is revealed.

Two of the stories, "The Puppet Show" and "Orbitville" remind me of the literary school known as "Theatre of the Absurd". The crux of the stories seems to be that the protagonist is seeing things differently from everyone else. "The Puppet Show" is ostensibly is about the theatre, so already there is a dissociation from reality. "Orbitville" takes place in a future when everyone seems to live most of their lives in virtual reality. In such a situation, how is one to tell what's real?

"Digital Love at First Sight" also pits the digital world versus reality.

In "The Inheritance" the protagonist slowly uncovers a family secret; this story seems closest to traditional fantasy. "Coming Out" is a similar story that seems like regular fantasy. "Spam" also seems to be a traditional fantasy.

"Planet of the Dead" reminds me of the Ray Bradbury story about the Edgar Allan Poe recreation on Mars. In this story the graves of almost everyone on Earth have been relegated to a cemetery on another planet. The original reason was to make more space available for the living. Eventually it became convenient to exile the dead, so people didn't have to think about them. However the caretaker of the cemetery has a nefarious plot.

"Strange Phenomena" is somewhat similar. It's about a marine archaeology expedition in the Mediterranean that runs into something that seems to be straight out of mythology.

I once went shopping at an Ikea outlet. My experience there has kept me out of the stores ever since; there seemed to be no way to get out without going through the entire store. "The Bazaar" reminded me of that experience. A man finds himself at a superstore, and he can't find a way out. He's worried that he'll be late getting together with his girlfriend.

The self-published nature of the book is apparent in the number of type-setting errors. It seems as though the book was not copyedited very well. On the whole the errors do not mar the impact of the stories, but they can be a little jarring. I would recommend the book, with some reservation because of those errors, for people who like something a little different from the usual. Think *The Twilight Zone* or *The Outer Limits*.

* * *

* StippleAPA

StippleAPA is an amateur press association. An APA is like a group pen pal. Each distribution includes a fanzine from each member, who usually writes about his or her interests and life and makes comments on the previous issues of the other members. If you're interested in joining, please let me know and I can get you in touch with the person who runs it.

We had a good amount of rain in January—over four inches. So far in February, we have had less than an inch.

I have started singing again. The church choir has started rehearsing a cantata for

Easter; it's one we've done before, but I can't say I remember it well.

Mailing Comments on Stipple-APA #307

Erik Biever (Vesuvius of Oatmeal): We're not really yard work people, but we generally don't get any other exercise. I, personally, do some physical therapy exercises and a little bit more daily. Unfortunately Mike doesn't do anything of that nature. As long as we're able, I think we should do our own yard work. We do hire people for big projects, such as the pathways.

I appreciate your photo section. I've never done much to identify most of the spiders we see.

Nicole Bourgoin (A Fool's Errand, #1): Sorry your succulents died. Good luck next time.

I have some unfinished needlepoint projects.

Joyce Maetta Odum (Sic Parva Magna): I envy you your sighting of the river otters.

Congratulations on your award at Elysian Fields.

Marge Sehnert (Happy New Year??): I can identify with your "decade" housecleaning!

Condolences on your loss of two cousins.

So sorry to hear about your mouse problem.

The Sparrow and the Wolf (Not Unlike a Sparrow's Perspective): You're just lucky you don't have to live in close proximity with the results of our last election.

Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever #52): For me, shopping in person for most shoes can be a nightmare. Most stores don't carry my size, so even in person I'd have to special order shoes. The exceptions are things like hiking books that are stocked in the entire range of sizes from children through the biggest adults. I've been buying shoes online for years. I know the brands I find comfortable and generally stick with those. I've rarely had to return any because of bad fit.

Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #6): I didn't realize *Farthing* was the first book of a trilogy. I liked the first book okay, and I really need to find out what happens. The ending was pretty scary. I'll have to check my libraries.

I believe most of us thought we'd have more "spare" time after we retired. Were we ever wrong!

I don't believe talking on a cell phone is more distracting than having a conversation with a passenger; but it's easier to interrupt a live conversation, especially since the passenger is aware of the driving conditions.

Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits): Our realtor is thinking of future business when she entertains her past clients. Past clients are far more likely to recommend her if we see her frequently. She also publishes a list of professionals, such as lawyers; and we've found the list useful.

Our group had a lot of luck in Antarctica. Not all groups have the opportunity to disembark on the continent itself, and most groups don't get to go

below the Antarctic circle. Conditions just worked out in our favour.

* *

See you all in six weeks.

* * *

* Letters to the Editor

The text of letters received will be in brown. My replies to the letters will be enclosed in double parentheses and will be in black. I will also routinely make editorial corrections in punctuation, spelling, and the like. Deadline for next issue is 2 November 2016.

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd, Etobicoke, ON, Canada M9C 2B2, penneys at bell dot net
27 January 2017

Thank you so much for *Purrsonal Mewsings* 55 and another chance to get caught up. Not only will I comment on the issue at hand but also get caught up on other correspondence.

How common are horned lizards where you are? With global warming, a new species has made its way up into southern Ontario; we now have opossums, fighting for territory with the huge population of raccoons we have here.

((The Regal Horned Lizard is included in a brochure of common animals that I keep on my desk, so I guess that would make them pretty common. We've seen about three of them altogether since we moved here.))

I am not sure, but I think Jim Butcher is attempting a new series of books with a steampunk motif to them, and *The Aeronaut's Windlass* is the first of them. What few steampunk novels I have read have been fascinating, especially those by Stephen Hunt; but others tend to go with the Victorian style of writing and can be long and dreary.

((*The Aeronaut's Windlass* is written with an easy-to-read style, nothing Victorian about it. Of course this doesn't even take place on Earth.))

The Canadian Star Trek stamps were merely stills from the series, but the Canadian Mint got in on things with commemorative coins. I can't really buy things like this any more, so I have refrained from buying anything about the 50th anniversary, as much as I might have wanted to.

((Stills from the show are a lot classier than the stylized symbols used on the US stamps.))

The LoCol: good to see that Rodney Leighton is still with us and publishing. I would have to wonder if Ben Bova is as promising about the future given the new administration in Washington.

I see that you are following me on Google+. I went to the Google+ site many years ago, but I haven't been on it for some years now; and with Facebook giving me the social media I need, it's not likely that I will do anything on Google+. Facebook, LinkedIn, and my LoC archive on LiveJournal are about as much social media as I can handle.

((Although I'm nominally on Google+ and LinkedIn, I don't post anything there any more. I tried posting on Google+, but no one every responded, so I stopped. There are a couple of people I follow on Google+ who are not on Facebook.))

You said to me in a past e-mail that Al Sirois wondered about the differences between The Asylum, the big steampunk event in Lincoln, UK, that we went to this past August, and the usual model of SF conventions we're all used to.

We all know the usual conventions we attend are usually at a hotel; and most, if not all, aspects of the convention are in hotel function rooms. We called The Asylum a convention, as did many; but they called themselves a steampunk festival. Attendees stayed in various hotels and university dorms (Lincoln has two universities); and we stayed at perhaps the best and most central of all hotels, the Castle Hotel. Con suite? Just a short walk west of our hotel was a school and schoolyard, and the schoolyard was transformed into a food court with food trucks and stands and what we called the gin bus. A double decker bus was changed into a bar on the main floor, with seating outside, and the upstairs was converted into a cocktail lounge with a small bar at the front. We'd never seen anything like that before, and I can think of various places that would really benefit from this. The back of the schoolyard contained the registration tents; and a grassy area behind that held an Alice-style mad tea party on one day, which we very much enjoyed.

Let me check with The Asylum's programme book, very detailed...the assorted panels, evening parties, banquets, and concerts took place in eleven different venues all over the city of Lincoln, many of them in the area we were in, the cathedral/artistic quarter of the city. The dealers' room was actually four different venues in the quarter, one in a church, and the others in outdoor markets in the centre area of the quarter crossroad between the cathedral and the castle. The evening parties were held in the Assembly Hall, an ancient building, again steps away from our hotel. (Parts of the façade of the Assembly Hall date back to the 1400s.) Some of the outdoor events took place at Lincoln Castle; and we took part in the parade of the Illustrious Assemblage of Honourable Foreigners, in which all attendees from outside of Britain gathered to parade and show off their steampunkish costumes and national flags. We were proud to march in that parade as the only Canadians attending; indeed, we were the only North Americans there. We met others from France, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, India, Australia, and New Zealand.

Only four days long, but a marvellous time. So much we saw and so much more we didn't see. Lots of walking, but so many bits of costume, so much creativity, and so much mad fun. Creativity is foremost; and with no iconic characters to model your costume against, no one will tell you your costume isn't right or proper.

Thanks for this issue, and I am sure the next one is on the way soon.

#

Tim Sullivan, twowheels2000 at gmail dot com **14 February 2017**

As always, fun to read your *Purrsonal Mewsings*! I got to hear George Takei give a talk at UC Davis in October after riding the Foxy Fall 100-mile bike tour. He mostly talked about his experiences in the two camps he was located at. It was a really good talk. I visited Manzanar a few years ago on my way home from the last of my California Mission scooter trips—definitely a bleak place. I've driven past the location of the Tule Lake camp several times on my way to Bend, Oregon; and that one makes Manzanar look like a vacation spot! One of my mom's best high school friends got sent to Manzanar with her family.

((We visited Manzanar on an outing with a group. At that time there was very little there. I first spoke with George Takei in the 1970s at a Star Trek convention about his camp experiences.))

That looks like a great horned owl, but it's hard to judge the size. Those are big owls! Have you seen any burrowing owls? I used to run across them all the time when I was living in Yuma, AZ; they lived in their holes along the canal banks.

((I haven't personally seen the owl that Mike has seen several times. I've only seen the owlets, possibly of the same owl; I don't know how big their territory is. We've not seen any burrowing owls, but one of our contractors pointed out a burrow he thought might belong to one.))

#

Timothy Lane, TimothyLane51 at gmail dot com **15 February 2017**

Elizabeth Garrott spent some time at a Japanese internment camp, Camp #9 (Rohwer) near McGehee, Arkansas. Her father was a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan and was ministering at the camp. Their landlord in McGehee kicked them out (quite possibly because of what his job was), so they moved into the camp. Her younger sister was born there.

#

Michael Dobson, michael at dobsonbooks dot com **16 February 2017**

While researching the internment experience for my novel (with Doug Niles) *MacArthur's War*, I spent several hours interviewing a man named Marshall Sumida at the Japanese-American Internment Museum in San Francisco. He was also at Rohwer (which appears in the novel) and told me a number of stories about his experiences there; I adapted several of them for the novel. One particular story stands out. His uncle got permission for the family to have a picnic outside the camp. While sitting on top of a hill, they noticed a black sharecropper who was pumping water by hand from a well. The uncle began to laugh. "Here we are, official enemies of the United States, but we at least have running water and indoor plumbing. I wonder what *he* did." Sumida later enlisted in the Army and became a translator, working on MacArthur's staff. During basic training in Louisiana, he and several other soldiers were off base and got on a city bus. The driver told the black soldier in the group to head to the back, but the other soldiers protested. The driver stuck to his guns, so the soldiers threw him off the bus and drove off.

Thanks for the fanzine. Will I see you at Corflu?

((I will not be at Corflu this year.))

#

Timothy Lane, TimothyLane51 at gmail dot com **16 February 2017**

I remember reviewing *MacArthur's War* several years ago along with a couple of other Pacific War alternate histories. I noted Elizabeth's connection to the camp at Rohwer, as well as her connection to the intended #2 atomic bomb target, Kokura. (At various times, she and her parents taught at a Baptist school there that was used as an army HQ during the war and may have been the intended ground zero.)

#

Janet Weasner, Facebook **17 February 2017**

Have been enjoying your newsletter. Once again you share your world travels. I am so grateful to follow along behind you as my tour guide.

#

Joy V. Smith, Pagadan at aol dot com **17 February 2017**

Thank you for the reviews, and I enjoyed reading about your trip to Hawaii--and the photos. Beautiful and interesting destination.

Someone mentioned the *Doc Savage* movie; as I recall, it was fun.

((I thought it was fun.))

Your landscape and hardscape sound impressive. You've accomplished a lot! Btw, we recently sold our home and found a new one, which needs work inside and out. We'll be improving the beds--after ripping out all those bushes--with plants and rocks and concrete benches and bird baths, ...

#

Robert Kennedy, robertk at cipcug dot org **20 February 2017**

My thanks for issues # 55 and #56. I just accessed and printed #53 to obtain your Antarctica Trip report. I am sure that it will make me very envious. Then to fill in the gap accessed and printed #54 with the great pictures and Mike's High School Reunion Trip. That includes the picture on page 5 that includes Joe Major. I have not seen Joe for several years but consider him to be a friend, and it is nice to see his picture. I have not heard from my high school since shortly after I graduated some 60+ years ago. It appears that they have lost me and that is just fine.

((Mike's reunion was organized by some students, not the school.))

Oh, and it was nice to finally meet you at Loscon in 2015 so we got to see what each other looks like.

Please keep me on your distribution list.

#

Robert Kennedy, robertk at cipcug dot org **21 February 2017**

I've now read #53 and am glad you seem to have basically enjoyed your Antarctica Trip despite the various problems including your getting ill because of gluten.

On page 12 you comment on "Annual bird deaths in U.S. by cause". It is my understanding that most bird deaths by cats are caused by feral cats. You indicate that wind turbines cause an estimated 573,000 bird deaths. Solar Farms also cause bird deaths. I don't know how many, but it's in the thousands. As wind turbines and solar farms continue to greatly increase, their causing bird deaths will also greatly increase. That's basically why I am against them. I'm not against solar, just the farms.

((I can't quite understand how a solar farm would cause bird deaths. It's possible that traditional ways of generating power may also cause bird deaths, but no one's measuring. While it may be true that most of the cats that prey on birds are feral, too many people let their pet cats road around unchaperoned.))

You also indicate that window collisions cause 565-988 million bird deaths. Back in the 90s I was eating lunch in the company cafeteria and looking out the window. Suddenly a bird crashed into the window, fell to he ground, and just lay there. I figured it was dead. After about ten minutes, it got up and flew away.

((Some birds are lucky enough only to be stunned by collisions with glass. However, just because it flies away doesn't mean it's okay; there may be internal injuries that it may die of.))

* * *

* Closing Remarks

Deadline for next issue will be 6 April.

Laurraine

27 February 2017