

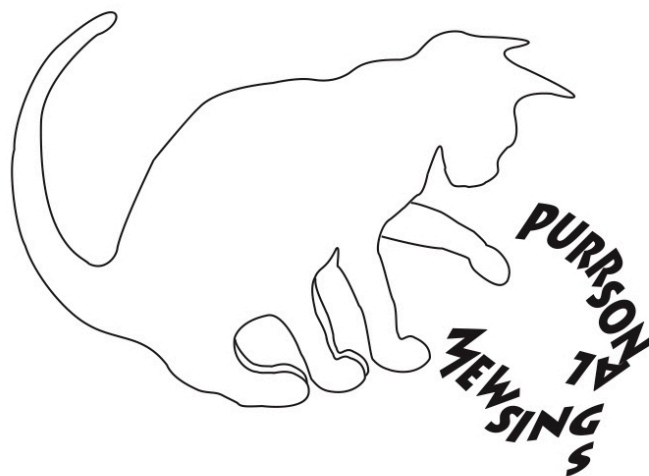
Purrsonal Mewsings #71



Purrsonal Mewsings, formerly *Feline Journal* and *Feline Mewsings* is a personalzine by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; 520-275-6511, Laurraine@mac.com, <http://www.weasner.com/>. I hope to publish every six weeks.

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 #487. ©2020 R-Laurraine Tutihasi.

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#71

February 2020

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[] 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

I was so busy with holiday activities that I missed the November Stipple. I had intended to have a zine in January, but the deadline was too close to the last of the holiday activities, and I didn't have time to do a proper zine.

I started the new year with a hike at our local state park. Future hikes in the series are planned for Wednesdays, which is our grocery day; so I don't know when I'll get out again. Sometimes there are bird walks offered.

The tail bone area has greatly improved, but there's still a ways to go.

Winter so far has given us a good amount of precipitation, some in the form of snow.

The toaster oven replacement turned out to be the wrong model, so we returned it for a refund. We decided after some thought that we really didn't need one, especially as my new microwave is also a convection oven. A while back we had a problem with our security system that had to be repaired. Thank goodness this happened while we were home and not travelling. Recently Mike's recliner bit the dust. We went shopping for one and thought we found one, but apparently it disappeared into thin air before it was delivered; the store manager found the chair, and it was delivered the following week. The latest unexpected expenditure happened when our bedroom TV died rather suddenly. We really didn't need these extra expenditures, especially as we'd spent a great deal on the battery backup for our solar power system back in spring and early summer. I've been trying to strap down as much as possible as far as spending goes.

* * *

* Kritter Korner

Cato appears to be doing well aside from an apparently increasing finickiness. Here's a photo of him climbing the ladder in our video room to get up on the top shelf.

On other fronts I saw a deer brazenly walk up to my fruit trees and munch on them. Back in the summer, a friend invited me over to get some peaches from her trees. Her fruit trees are in cages. I started thinking about caging my own trees. It looks like that would be the only way to insure that I get fruit from them. The way they're planted, it'll have to be a long narrow cage. I drove Mike to my friend's place to look at how they're constructed. We noticed a couple of different plant cages on other properties nearby. We'll have to figure out how much material we need to build one. I'm hoping our handyman can help with the building.

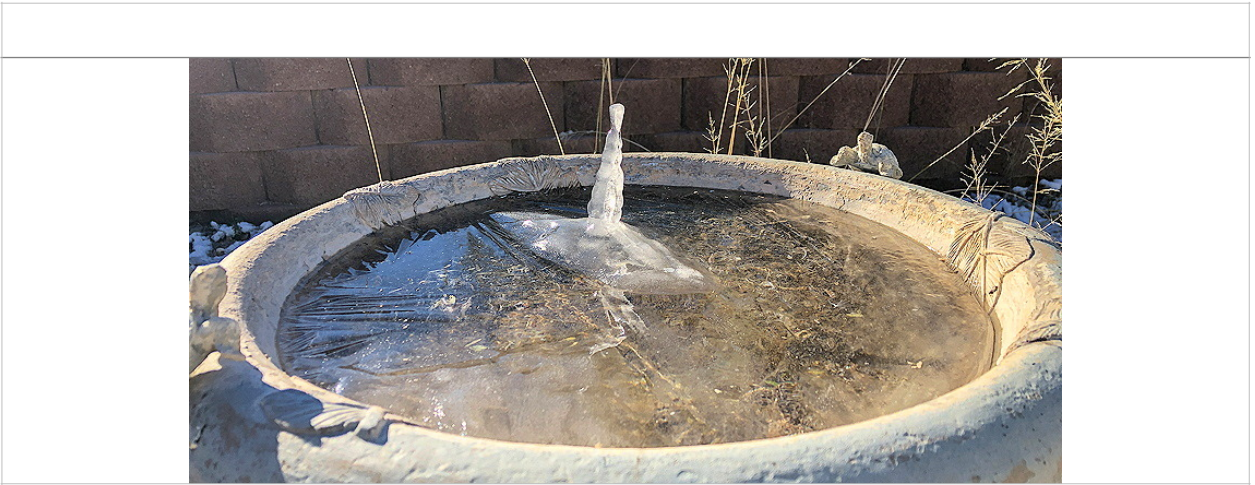


At an astronomical event at the local state park back in January, Mike managed to get a good shot of a Harris's hawk through a telescope (see photo to right).

On another occasion he took a photograph of a gorgeous sunset at home. See next page.



Back in November we had some freezing temperatures at night, and Mike found this strange phenomenon, called an “ice spike” in the birdbath.



* * *

*** Astronomy**

Mike had a setback in his astronomy, as the power outlet in his observatory was flooded and shorted out. It took a few weeks before it was repaired. The replacement outlets are raised off the floor, so it should be safe. This is another one of those surprise expenditures.

Otherwise the sky conditions have oscillated between good and poor.

Here’s one interesting photo he managed to get; it’s a combined photo that shows the International Space Station crossing the Moon.



Another night he took a great photo of the Orion nebula.



On the next page is a montage of Mike's astronomical activities for 2019.



Highlights from 2019

* * *

*** Westercon Trip to Salt Lake City Area and a Visit to Arches National Park in July 2019**

We got underway on the first leg of our trip to Salt Lake City about 08:30 on Tuesday, 2 July 2020. We drove to Page, which is near the northern border of Arizona. I spent some time during the drive taking photos, sleeping, and reading e-mail.

We arrived at the Courtyard Page about 15:00.

We drove to Salt Lake City the next day. We crossed into Utah and daylight savings time about 07:30/08:30. There is a lot of nice scenery, but too many are marred by power lines. We arrived at the Hampton Inn in Layton about 14:30.

Almost immediately after checking in, we walked to the Davis Conference Center a short walk from our motel. We were mostly able to register at the main convention registration desk; we later discovered that the Green Room was still waiting for material. While waiting for the GR to open, we hung around near the Hilton Garden Inn, which is connected to the conference centre. While there we talked with various people, including Bjo Trimble who was one of the convention guests. I discovered that Linda Deneroff was also a guest; we chatted for a few minutes. Mike Willmoth introduced us to his second in command for Operations. Moshe Feder found us at one point, and we talked for about an hour; we went up to the Green Room together. He was staying at the Hampton same as we, and he went back for free food. We chatted with John Hertz for quite a while.

It was about 17:30 when Mike and I had dinner at the restaurant in the Hilton Garden Inn.

In the evening there was a “Match Game” that I joined in progress.

At 10:00 the next day, which was the Fourth of July, we headed for the Zephyr room for my panel “Alien Invasion Debriefing Session”. The other panellists were David Weber, Monalisa Foster (moderator), Tanglwyst de Holloway, and Aften Brook Szymanski. We had a sizeable audience, and it seemed to go well. We discussed various alien invasion scenarios in books and film.

In the afternoon was “Opening Ceremonies”. There were a lot of guests since this was four conventions in one—Westercon 72, NASFiC 2019, 1632 Minicon, and Manticon 2019. After the introductions, Tonopah made its Westercon bid presentation. The Phoenix bid people were still in transit. We relaxed for a while between panels, then went to “Robots before Asimov”, an excellent slide presentation by Steve Carper, who has just published a book on the subject. Afterward we arranged to meet him and his wife, Linda, at the Outback Steakhouse for dinner at 19:00. Then we headed for the rather small dealer’s room, where I didn’t see much of interest. Mike returned to our room. I went on to the art show, which was of a respectable size. I bought a pendant for my sister there. I talked to a couple I met last year at a convention. Then I headed to “Cats in Speculative Fiction” with Elektra Hammond, Judy Peterson, Dr. Karen Purcell (veterinarian), and Kal Spriggs moderated by John M. Olsen. Aside from discussion about books featuring cats, there was also discussion about the nature and personalities of cats. During the panel there was much noisy weather, which I found out from Mike’s texts was graupel. When I emerged from the panel, it was raining cats and dogs; so I

called Mike to pick me up to drive us to dinner.

When we arrived at the Outback, Steve and Linda were already there. They had a rental car. We had a very enjoyable and conversation-filled couple of hours.

There was still intermittent rain, so I decided to forego any partying, which was at a different hotel.

The next morning I walked over to the conference centre about 11:00. I bumped into Moshe almost as soon as I entered. Then I ran into one of the people who had been on the panel with me and Lisa Hayes and talked with them for a while until I went in to “Ask an Editor” with Moshe Feder, Susan Chang (both at Tor), and Jim Minz at Baen with moderator Dave Farland. The fascinating process that ensues after a book is accepted by a publisher was discussed.

After that I went to John Hertz’s discussion of Henry Kuttner’s “Mimsy Were the Borogoves”. John unsurprisingly arrived late, started even later, and ran over. The book is a time travel story in which two children find futuristic toys. Playing with the toys changes their mode of thinking.

I left the discussion when it was scheduled to have ended to meet Mike at Roosters for lunch. Unbeknownst to me at first, he was just behind me. We had a satisfactory meal of a high end Cobb salad for me and fish and chips for Mike.

After lunch I went to an interview of fan guest of honour Linda Deneroff, which I found very informative. She recounted how she became involved in fandom and why she moved from NYC to the West Coast. Then I went to “Pitchers and Catchers”, which gave budding authors a chance to pitch to Moshe Feder and Brandon Sanderson who critiqued the pitches. In the meantime Mike went to an interview of the Trimbles. They talked about the “save the Star Trek” campaign, the “save the New Horizons mission” campaign, being at the filming of the Star Trek episode “The Deadly Years”, the “name the space shuttle” campaign, and the special effects for Star Trek: the Motion Picture.

I walked by myself to the restaurant in the Hilton Garden Inn and was looking for a table to sit at when Roberta Rogow spoke to me from her table. It took me a second to recognize her. She was with her friend Jerrie, and they had ordered but hadn’t received their food yet. I ordered a rare ribeye, but the first one arrived overcooked. I ate French fries while I waited. Despite all the potato I had eaten, I managed to eat the whole steak.



After dinner I slowly made my way to the room where the “dark sky” panel would be. Mike joined me in the hallway. Then a second panellist arrived. The previous panel let out early, so we went in early to get set up. The second panellist and Mike (he’s the one in blue in the photo above) ended up doing most of the talking. Mike was able to use his

PowerPoint presentation.

Afterwards I went to the “Match Game” and got to be a contestant. I made it to the final match but didn’t win. My consolation prize was a water bottle from the San Antonio worldcon and a “Parting Gift”.

On Saturday I walked over to the conference centre to sign up for Moshe Feder’s literary beer.

I talked to people or read e-mail until Mike found me just before John Hertz’s discussion about Heinlein’s *Rocket Ship Galileo*. He pointed out the excellent character descriptions, implied and otherwise. We had a short gap between that and our next programme item, and I managed to read a bit of e-mail before we went to hear a reading by Ctein from a novel he’s working on with David Gerrold.

It was about 12:30, so we went to Roosters for lunch. I had the type of meal I would normally eat at night, since I wouldn’t have time for a real meal in the evening.



After lunch we rested for a bit in the Hilton Garden Inn lobby, where there are some comfortable chairs. I even managed to doze off for a bit. Then we went to hear the Trimbles talk about themselves. Mike returned to our room, and I went to a literary beer with Moshe Feder.

Sometime after that I bought a bag of Doritos as a sort of dinner.

Then I met Mike coming the other way as I headed toward the venue for the masquerade. The doors weren’t open yet, so we found chairs nearby where we could wait. Eventually the room was opened.

The masquerade was on the short side, but the overall quality of the costumes was good. There was an intermission during which some dancers entertained. Then the awards were given out. Mike returned to our room after that and took my camera and Kitt Peak bag with him. I went to parties in the Home 2 Suites across the street from the Hilton Garden Inn. There were three parties; one was for World Fantasy Con. Another was, I think, a Seattle Westercon party. The third was for the Westercon in 2021 in Tonopah party.



I had some really great conversations in each room. I didn’t notice the time flying until Kevin Standlee announced that his party was closing down. People I talked with whose names I remember are Val and Ron Ontell, Steve and Sue Francis, Linda Deneroff, and Cheryl whom I first met in Tucson who now lives in Phoenix. I also talked with the guy playing host for the World Fantasy Con party, an author whom I had seen at the Pitch panel, and an immigrant from Britain

now living in Phoenix. That last person I remember a lot about; his given names were, I think, Henry Charles Francis; I believe his last name started with an H. Our conversation ran the gamut from genealogy to music to sf cons in Phoenix. I walked to the Hilton Garden Inn with Linda Deneroff. I didn't get back to our room until after midnight.

I joined the woman hosting the Big Cat Sanctuary table for breakfast the next morning. She told me horror stories about animal abuse. We discussed the improvement in zoos in recent years, other animal sanctuaries, and other things. Moshe Feder said "good morning" in passing. I spoke to other fans in the breakfast room

Mike and I we went to an 11:30 panel titled "Saving Kirk" on which the Trimbles and Ctein talked about the "save Star Trek" campaign, during which time Ctein first met the Trimbles.

After that was John Hertz's discussion of *October the First Is Too Late*. I hadn't managed to read more than a third of it due to lack of time, but I think the discussion gave me information that might be helpful as I continue reading. "United We Fan" was a film about viewers who managed to save their favourite shows. This included the Trimbles and a group called Viewers for Quality Television that existed for a dozen years. They sometimes developed relationships with the people connected to the shows they were trying to save and gave out awards. Nowadays people campaign on the Internet. Then we attended the "Closing Ceremonies".

After returning to our room and reorganizing my stuff, we went to Applebee's for dinner.

I walked to the Hilton Garden Inn for the Dead Dog party, while Mike returned to our room. The Dead Dog started in the Con Suite. There were only a few people there when I arrived, but more people trickled in. I spoke for a while with a woman who had earlier attended the book discussion; she was from Jacksonville. Later there was a man who claimed to be related to Butch Cassidy, Robert Leroy Parker. This guy said his first name was either Henry or George. After the incidents portrayed in the Newman-Redford movie, Butch Cassidy absconded to Canada with his robbery take and finished out his life peacefully. I started yawning a little before 21:00, so I returned to our hotel.

After breakfast on Monday we drove to Utah's Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City. It's a nice place, maybe a bit larger than the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson. There are magpies in this area; Mike managed to get a photo (see right). I missed my chance at a robin. We took in a show about birds.



We had lunch at one of the numerous eating places there.

We also stopped for ice cream in the afternoon. It got warmer than forecast and was quite humid. We got back to our motel about 15:00.

Tuesday morning I got down to breakfast about 07:45 and found four other fans still in the hotel. They planned to leave the next day like us. We chatted while we ate.

After breakfast we went to Utah's Red Butte Garden. While it was enjoyable, it only took just over an hour to do; so we decided to go to the Natural History Museum of Utah right next door. They're both part of the University of Utah.

We had lunch in the museum cafe first before looking at the exhibits.

I found the exhibits quite interesting, especially the dinosaurs. Other exhibits included rocks and minerals, Native Americans, different habitats of the region, astronomy, and Yellowstone. We returned to our hotel about 15:00, giving us plenty of time to regroup.

We went to dinner about 17:00 and ate at Osaka Sushi around the corner. It turned out to be "Half price Tuesday" so fairly crowded, but we were immediately seated at the sushi counter.

We got underway Wednesday morning about 10:00. We arrived at the Springhill Suites near Moab about 15:00. The motel only serves breakfast, so I researched restaurants in Moab, which is a couple miles away.

At 17:00 we had dinner at the Desert Bistro, a high end haute cuisine restaurant. I thought it was marvellous, but it wasn't really to Mike's taste.

We left the motel about 19:30 and headed for Arches National Park. We both took many photos, and I went on one hike to North and South Arch and the Turret Arch. By then it was pretty dark, and we returned to the motel for some shuteye.

Thursday we drove straight from breakfast to Arches National Park. We drove to the end of the road, where there were some trails (Tunnel Arch and Pine Tree Arch) that I hiked until they became too steep. Even though I didn't get to the end, there was still a lot of scenery. After that we found two of the easy trails (Sand Dune Arch and Broken Arch) with arches at the end. One actually went farther, but most people were stopping at the arch. I checked a map later, and there's another arch beyond it. We did a lot of other photography. We went to the Visitor Center on our way out, as it was open by then and got brochures.

We were back at our motel about noon.

We had dinner about 18:00 at the Moab Grill, a modest unpretentious restaurant. I had pork chop.

Then we went straight to the park. Because of clouds and wind, it didn't feel as hot as yesterday. We stopped at the Park Avenue Viewpoint. Then we went to the Balanced Rock, where there was a short circular trail. After that we went to the Double Arch trail (see photo of me taken by a fellow hiker), which is somewhat short and mostly level. Finally we went to the Garden of Eden and Panorama Rock viewpoints. We returned to the motel about 21:30. Darkness descended earlier tonight because of clouds hiding the Moon.



Friday we set off for the park about 06:30. Our first stop was at Lower Delicate Arch Viewpoint; it was a really short walk to a point from which we could see the arch in the distance. Then we drove to Wolfe Ranch, a remnant of a pioneer one-room home and nearby root cellar. Not far from there is some rock art dating from 1650-1850. After that we stopped at Salt Valley Overlook and Fiery Furnace Viewpoint. Finally we went to the Devils Garden area, and I finished the hikes I started the day before to Tunnel Arch, Pine Tree Arch, and Landscape Arch. From the last, I could see Double O Arch.

Then we drove back to the motel.

It turned out that our neighbours, the Alexanders, were also in Moab that day; so we met for dinner about 17:45 at the Sunset Grill. It was a nice place except for inadequate air-conditioning.

We drove home on Saturday. There were some photogenic sights that I snapped.

* * *

* **Reviews:** reviews without attribution are by the editor

Silent Sky, a play by Lauren Gunderson, performed by the Arizona Theatre Company

We saw this in early November in Tucson. Mike was interested, because it is about the 20th century female astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. Back then astronomer Edward Charles Pickering took a large number of sky photographs and needed people to analyze them. He hired women, among them, astronomer Leavitt, a graduate of Radcliffe College, to catalogue the stars in his photographs. She studied stars in the Small and Large Magellanic Clouds, dwarf galaxies visible from the southern hemisphere. She is best known for discovering a way to measure distances to the stars through her study of Cepheid stars. Her work led her to discover the relationship between the luminosity and period of Cepheid variables. Her discoveries were published in the *Annals of the Astronomical Observatory of Harvard College*, in which she noted that the brighter variables had the longer periods. Her discovery eventually led to the establishment of the expanding universe. The period-luminosity relationship for Cepheids is known as Leavitt's Law.

The play presents her story of leaving her home in rural Wisconsin to work in Boston at the Harvard College Observatory. Her colleagues Annie Cannon and Williamina Fleming are two of the main characters. There are fictional elements in the play as well, but they do not detract from the main focus of the play. The play also tugs on the audience's heartstrings by emphasis on her health problems. She died of cancer at 53.

The play was well performed by actors Veronika Duerr, Victoria Grace, Nardeep Khurmi, Inger Tudor, and Amelia White. The play was written to highlight the work of a woman astronomer who had been left out of astronomical history until recently. Much of the audience were members of the astronomy community, and we appreciated the opportunity to learn about Leavitt.

#

Terminator: Dark Fate, written by James Cameron and others, directed by Tim Miller; stars Linda Hamilton, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Mackenzie Davis

This movie follows *Terminator 2*. The movies in between have been discarded from the canon. I, for one, am happy that I don't have to try to make sense of all those confusing movies in between. It's set twenty-five years later. It starts with a flashback in which John Connor is murdered. Then we shift to the main action. A cybernetically enhanced soldier named Grace arrives from the future to protect Dani, who lives in Mexico City. Sarah Connor arrives a bit later to destroy the Terminator sent to kill Dani. The group make their way to Laredo, Texas, from whence Sarah has been receiving messages that help her track and kill Terminators. There they find the T-800 that had killed John. With no mission it has developed self-awareness and has been sending Sarah the helpful messages. He has also been living with a family he saved. Sarah, Grace, and the T-800 team up to destroy the new Terminator that appears to be indestructible.

The intent of the movie is to entertain, and it did that. It's action-packed but easy to follow. Apparently the movie did not do well, which I find unfortunate.

#

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker, written by J. J. Abrams and others, directed by J. J. Abrams; stars Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Adam Driver, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Anthony Daniels, Kelly Marie Tran, Naomi Ackie, Domhnall Gleeson, Richard E. Grant, Lpita Nyong'o, Keri Russell, Joonas Suotamo, Ian McDiarmid, and Billy Dee Williams

This is the ninth and final movie of the originally planned trilogy of trilogies. Emperor Palpatine has managed to regenerate himself and is a power to be reckoned with. The Resistance gathers all its forces and recruits other friends in order to defeat him. I don't want to say more, because I might give away too much.

I enjoyed it, but my reaction was "Is this really the end?"

* * *

*** 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.

MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #329

Jacky Boykin (Hollywood 101: The “Talk” of the Town): About that deer, I got it wrong. I was informed that it’s a white-tailed deer. They’re very similar.

I can’t really say I have a favourite among the California missions. Each one is unique.

Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #27): Horror in the movies has never scared me, unless you count jumping because of a sudden movement. The scariest movie for me was a medical thriller—*Coma*. When I asked my physician sister if such things were possible, she said yes. I was scared once by a horror novel—Thomas Tryon’s *Harvest Home*.

I don’t have problems with stuffing an animal you killed for food. What I object to is trophy hunting.

I don’t think we know for certain that Mars never had plants. And we don’t know if there might be other mechanisms for creating oxygen.

S. Rayne (Happy Allhallowtide!): The black ranger who is the basis for Lone Ranger was featured in one episode of *Timeless*.

A friend of mine once told a group of us about Dom DeLuise being able to make sandwiches behind his back.

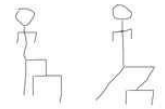
HHOK=Ha Ha Only Kidding

Also HHO1/2K.

Harlan’s writing is depressing enough that I learned the hard way never again to read a collection of his in one sitting. I did that once and found it difficult to stop sobbing.

Joyce Maetta Odum (Trepidatious Epiphany): I appreciate your taking the time to tell me about exercises that might help my tush. I already do the second one. I’m not sure I understand the first one. I’ve made a drawing of my understanding of what you said: see drawing.

Also I have a question about the height of the right foot. By the way the area feels better now than it



did. There is gradual, though slow, improvement with occasional setbacks caused by sitting too long without my gel cushion (such as at a theatre).

Lucy Schmeidler (Don’t Ask #19): Sweetbread, one word, is also “a culinary name for the thymus (also called throat, gullet, or neck sweetbread) or pancreas (also called stomach, belly or gut sweetbread), typically from calf (*ris de veau*) and lamb (*ris d'agneau*), and, less commonly, beef and pork.”—Wikipedia. I first encountered the term sometime before college in a book—possibly O.Henry or Dickens. When I was in Vienna with a friend during college, she ordered sweetbread from the menu; I don’t know whether she knew what it was. You wouldn’t catch me eating it.

I once read a book that a good friend was crazy about. I found it uninteresting but kept thinking something interesting would happen, but it never did.

As I explained to Jacky above, the “mule” deer was misidentified. It was in fact a white-tailed deer. They are very similar.

Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever! #72): Your zine ended in the middle of a sentence.

Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits): As I

explained above, the “Mule” deer was actually a white-tailed deer.

I don’t think Alan White’s illo with the planets lined up is representational.

The Penneys saved up over a period of many months for their trip to England, foregoing other trips.

Allowing two pages of non-original material sounds good to me.

Mayochup—yuck!

MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #330

Lucy Schmeidler (Don’t Ask #20): Which convention did you register for —Loscon? Later on you mention the World Fantasy con, so maybe that’s what you were referring to earlier.

The Sparrow and the ‘Wolf (Not unlike a Sparrow’d Perspective): There are indeed various types of pneumonia, starting with the fact that there are viral and bacterial types.

Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #28): In the case of the self-driving car that hit the pedestrian, it has been shown that the human driver was not looking at the road.

I see nothing wrong with using present tense.

Erik Biever (Hunting the Night Sky): My sympathy regarding the deterioration of your mother’s health.

Those Starlink satellites are a pesky lot. On the other hand, they are set to go into operation later this year; and

we may be able to get better Internet service than we currently have.

Jacky Boykin (Hollywood 101: the “Talk” of the Town): Thank you for mentioning Madurodam. A friend of mine told me about the place years ago, I didn’t recall the name of the place. I’ve looked it up on the web and have e-mailed myself a reminder in case I should ever get back to Europe.

Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits): When I discover a problem with a hotel room, I always ask for a different room.

Scooters at conventions can be hazardous for other people, because many of the people using them are unused to driving them. It took me a while to get the hang of them. In fact I once drove over another fan’s feet. Fortunately the tyres were soft.

Our new microwave convection oven is a GE Profile. We decided we didn’t need a new toaster oven. In stead we pulled out a very old but reliable

toaster oven I've had for decades.

Unfortunately Yuko is not reliable at exchanging e-mails or texts, though I have texted her once since.

Watching skating competitions, I look for the same thing as everyone else—the quality of performance.

The history museum in Tacoma had exhibits clustered around themes. For

instance one exhibit was about the importance of immigrants, and it had recorded biographies of many of them. Another exhibit was a quiz about many obscure points in Washington history.

The illo on p. 9 is a barrel cactus that grows beside our driveway.

MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #331

Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever! #73): The word processors I own have settings that can show revisions, usually in a different colour. However, I agree that it's easier to edit on paper.

There are two kinds of pneumonia vaccines in the US.

Slan was one of my favourite books growing up. We read it a few years ago for a book club, and I found it not nearly as good as I had remembered. Regarding "a government that acts like gangsters", it seems to me that a lot of governments are like that.

Perchlorates, unfortunately, are pretty widespread here on Earth due to their widespread use in various manufacturing processes.

Dale Cozort (Space Bats & Butterflies): Your TV experiment validates my method of viewing. I DVR everything. This allows me to watch when I want to.

Because we purchased new iPhones last fall, we each have a free subscription to Apple TV+. My problem is finding the time and

Internet bandwidth allowance to watch. I already watch quite a bit of TV as it is. Until we can find a better Internet service that gives us more reliable service and more of it, our situation will not change.

S. Rayne (Wight as Rayne): It's too bad you were only in Tucson for New Year's Eve. We live just a bit north of Tucson.

Lucy Schmeidler (Don't Ask #21): I don't know about humans in general, but I certainly am incapable of multitasking unless the second task requires little thought. For instance I can do a bit of sewing while watching TV. My sister, on the other hand, seems to be an excellent multitasker. She can watch a TV drama and have a phone conversation at the same time!

I'm unable to find the *Wonder Woman* quote from Starwolf's zine that you refer to. However, Wonder Woman grew up on an isolated island hidden from the world. When she went to New York City, it was a shock to her system. I think anyone not acquainted

with large cities would find NYC surprising and confusing.

There are so many Starlink satellites that astronomers have started a petition to make Musk stop launching them. The worry is that they will be so numerous that they'll wash out all but the brightest stars in the sky.

Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits): Sorry to hear about your ear problems. I hope you're back to normal by now.

See you all in the April disty.

*** 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. I use Oxford standards of spelling and punctuation.

Trisha Millman, trishamillman at yahoo dot co dot uk 26 August 2019

Mike's photos are brilliant. I think my Mike is quite envious of his photos and indeed of his equipment.

((Regardless of equipment, your Mike takes great photos. [Indeed they gifted me with a calendar made up of photos he took of their home town and surrounding areas. I think I need to do something similar.]))

I hope Cato has settled in and is ruling the house! He looks quite content in his photos. Black and white cats are extra special. Benny was always quite a loner, but he has teamed up with one of my neighbours' cats, Bubbles, who is also a black and white. Bubbles is younger but when they are both out, they go everywhere together; we have even found them both asleep in our bed! Very cheeky pair.

#

**Rich Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Drive #302 Alexandria, VA 22306
12 October 2019**

Finally, I have some comments on *Purrsonal Mewsings* #69. I should have read it sooner and written this letter sooner. However, here it is.

My biggest problem isn't physical problems, like yours, but the mind. I keep forgetting things I should remember. Recently, I thought the time on the clock said it was time to awaken. I found out later that it was an hour earlier. In addition, it was my turn to get the Word of the Day at Toastmasters. However when I announced it, I announced a

somewhat different word than the one in my handout. Truly embarrassing. I have two consolations, though. One is, by writing down things, I don't miss as many appointments or duties as I did twenty years ago. My mind is not a total wreck. The second consolation is that I have to expect something like this at seventy-four. Of course when I misread the obvious, it was still embarrassing.

((Was the clock you misread an analogue clock? If so I did that years ago. That's why I prefer digital readouts. Of course if my eyes are blurry with sleep, that can also be misread.))

Next I will comment on your trip to California missions. It sounds like roughing it. Sharing bathrooms and rooms, among other things. Of course, I confess I mainly travel to conventions or family. I am used to Hiltons or some other luxury hotel chains. In the case of cons, it helps that the con has often negotiated lower room rates. In the case of my family, I go in off-season. Forget the the Central Jersey Shore in the summer. The upshot of this is I'm spoiled and hooked.

((Having a roommate when travelling helps to cut down on costs. Also I find that I like the companionship of having a roommate, though that doesn't always work out well; I've been lucky so far in that regard.))

We go from the California missions to your book reviews. Becky Chambers's *Record of the Spaceborn Few* reminds me of Riley Martin's *The Coming of Tan*. George Wells gave it to me. Probably I shouldn't make this comparison because Becky's novel is a collection of stories, and Martin claims his book is a true story of amiable socializing with flying saucer men. Of course both are fiction. In fact Martin's book screams put-on, i.e., fiction. It doesn't help that he was a member of Howard Stern's "Whack" Pack. Immediately people don't believe, but perhaps they're amused. I confess I was amused.

Let's go now to the Mailing Comments in Stipple-APA #325. Garth Spencer claims that he can't give blood because he's too thin. Garth, join the club. I can't give blood because of hepatitis I never had. At least that's what a doctor told me. Whatever they used to measure my hepatitis, my rating was 83; and the doctor claimed you need several thousand to diagnose it. On the other hand, I am not as discouraged about this as I used to be. I understand there's a need to be extra-special careful with the nation's blood supply.

Now to Letters to the Editor. I am starting with your comment to me. It sounds like a great hobby, making videos of your trips and life. I remember my parents' home movies. Like you, they travelled to a lot of foreign countries. In their home movies, they played around the landmarks of different countries. I guess deep down somewhere, they were kids. On the other hand, I have a nephew who does incredible wildlife photos. He is dead serious too. Usually he usually doesn't bother with foreign places either but takes them all in his native New Jersey. I have to say he gets some nice shots. His name is Richard Angelillo.

In another comment to me, you say all your electronics speak British English. Why? Of course, if it is none of my business, don't answer and I will definitely understand.

((I'm an anglophile and have been since I spent an academic year in England.))

After that short comment, I have a somewhat longer one. You comment to John Purcell that you have trouble publishing a fanzine outside of an APA. That you need deadlines. I probably need deadlines too. That has been my problem with JOMP, which I have published for over thirty years. Some issues have taken a year or two; and I have lost readers because of that.

Yet another comment has nothing to do with APAs or zines but has to do with the Lick Observatory. Robert Kennedy was a jealous of you for having toured the Lick Observatory. When you were there, did a guide say anything about the competition between the Lick Observatory and the Lowell Observatory? At least one of the astronomers there, William Campbell, thought that by publicizing that there was a system of artificial canals on Mars, Lowell was pandering to the public.

((No one mentioned this competition, to the best of my recollection.))

Finally, one last comment. This one is not on any great intellectual issue but concerns a person. I wish to tell Amy Harlib good luck in getting gigs.

I guess that is it until *Purrsonal Musings* 70. Keep on adventuring and tell us about your interesting exploits.

#

Amy Harlib, amyharlib at e-activism dot com

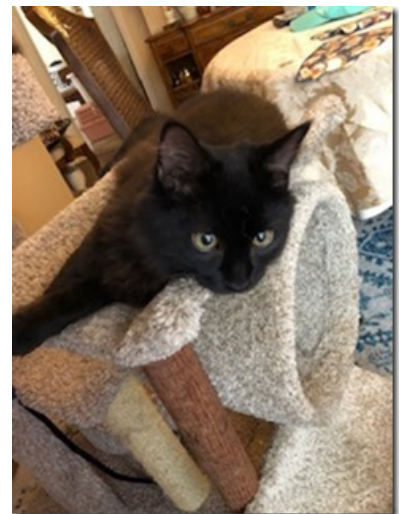
15 October 2019

Sorry to take so long to reply to your zine.

Loved Mike's photos and the California Missions tour report and photos.

My new kitty finally arrived on Oct. 9th, adopted from Maine Coon Rescue and transported by them from a foster in W. Virginia.

Astor, now Astor-Shanedy (Shanedy means handsome in Yiddish), is a 5-month old Maine Coon mix fluffy kitten, black with a small white locket on his chest, purrs constantly, very cuddly and playful. I adore him and am so much happier with him in my life! Cats truly are therapeutic!



It is Oct., and I am glad I have several Halloween gigs where I get to perform: Amazing Amy! Spectral Stretch! Frighteningly Flexible! Creepy Contortion Creature of the Night! To 8 minutes of spooky music on mp3 file, all black and black-sequined costume includes cloak of darkness! Audiences just love this ideally themed act for the season!

Really enjoy everyone's writings and reviews!

Warm Wishes and Happy Autumn!

((Our fall was hectic.))

#

Lloyd Penney, penneys at bell dot net

13 November 2019

Many thanks for an issue of *Purrsonal Mewsings*, issue 69 this time. I hope I'm not too late to get a letter in; I am behind yet again. I find I need more and longer breaks from writing for other responsibilities and hobbies.

As we age those little aches and pains get larger. I keep pulling muscles in my shoulders and hips, but they fade with a little exercise and some good painkillers. There's Cato with a friend...isn't that lovely? I'd love nothing better than to tour some of the California missions. There's a slim chance we might return to California within the next few years.

You've had a late spring...right now, it is just after Remembrance Day/Veteran's Day; and while we usually have cool temperatures, it is unseasonably cold, and quite snowy. Our winter has come about a month early, and it looks like it is here to stay.

My LoC... I do household chores so Yvonne has time to work on her various projects. No problem there. I use lists to manage my time, and I get so much done. We did have ourselves a fine time at Coldwater, and sales were good. In 2020 Coldwater will celebrate its 10th annual event, so Yvonne might be persuaded to bring Queen Victoria out for one last appearance.

Looks like I am well beyond the October 3 deadline...has issue 70 come out yet? Let me know, and I will go and download myself a copy. See you with the next LoCcol.

#

Timothy Lane, TimothyLane51 at gmail dot com

14 November 2019

Glad you're feeling better. And it's a good thing the rattler didn't strike Mike, since the Mojave rattlesnake is supposedly the most venomous rattler. I have a fascination with snakes, but I don't want them that close.

That cat condo is certainly very interesting. I can understand that you didn't want to call it an indoor cathouse. We had a lot of cat toys and such but never anything like that.

I went to the 2nd grade in Monterey, while my father attended the Army Language School (since closed) at the Presidio. I don't recall learning much about California then other than some sort of presentation on monarch butterflies. We did do a little touring.

What was that photograph with Joy Smith's letter? It looked like sea anemones, but I doubt that's what they were.

((It's a barrel cactus beside our driveway.))

We got Trusse's book, and I think more than just that one. I do recall reading it, having a considerable interest in the topic.

I met Ctein when we were both on a panel at Conadian on ozone depletion. He had his laptop there to consult, which made him a bit intimidating as a panellist. It was a good panel, though.

#

Joy V. Smith, Pagadan at aol dot com

15 November 2019

What a lovely photo of that goldfinch, and I love the yellow setting. Has Mike thought about submitting it to a calendar or somewhere? And what a fantastic kitty condo! (It really dwarfs Pemme's.) How high is your ceiling?

((Our ceiling is just a standard eight feet.))

I'm sorry about your tailbone, but I'm glad you felt well enough to go to Skate America, which sounds like a lot of fun--and a really long trek along with your side trips to museums--and you found a new friend to hang out with--a nice bonus. Thanks for sharing those photos and the others. I always enjoy them.

#

Amy Harlib, amyharlib at e-activism dot com

19 November 2019

Sorry to get around to responding to PM #70 at this late date, been distracted by personal stuff and my new kitten!

When Fiona died on July 31 at 16 of old age and anaemia/kidney failure, it took until Oct. 9th to get Astor, an all black Maine Coon mix adopted from Maine Coon Rescue. He's 7 months old now and an adorable purr and play machine!

I really love the photos of Cato and the Skate America report – I just adore figure skating as a spectator.

I also had a few fun Halloween gigs performing my Halloween themed contortion act. I even have a video of a recent performance that can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCvg_7_JoWo&t=12s



Amazing Amy! Spectral Stretch! Frighteningly Flexible! Creepy Contortion Creature of the Night! Catbaret! Meowloween! Wed. Oct. 30, 2019, 7 PM – 9 PM, QED Astoria, 27-16 23rd Ave., Astoria, Queens, NY 11105

Been too stressed out over personal and political turmoil to see any films recently other than streaming on my computer obscure old Chinese, Japanese, and Korean historical/martial arts genre dramas.

#

Lloyd Penney, penneys at bell dot net

8 January 2020

Many thanks for *Purrsonal Mewsings* 70, and sorry it has taken this long to respond. It seems I am always catching up these days. Zines are dying? Not in my IN box, they're not.

I am also going forward in a new direction for me, to become a professional book editor. I have been working on the latest incarnation of *Amazing Stories* magazine and am currently working on my third book, so time is short; and the idea of reinventing myself, even at the age of 60, is most appealing.

I'd love to see a three-digit high, Fahrenheit, of course. Just not the right time of year to have it. Climate change is one thing, but that would be crazy. We've got a little bit of snow on the ground here but nothing that can't be handled. We did have a green Christmas this year. One of these years, I will get to Seattle. Years ago our family was living in Victoria, British Columbia; and when we were getting ready to go to Seattle, my grandmother suddenly arrived from Toronto; and my father said that they would take my grandmother to Seattle, and they would take me the next time, which, of course, never happened.

Correct on MonSFFA being the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association. I have the book by Lynne Truss. I've seen a revision... *Eats, roots, shoots and leaves*, which has a naughty connotation for Australian readers. Punctuation saves lives! Did I

not respond to PM 69? I must check. Yes, I did, on September 22, 2019. If you did not receive that LoC, let me know, and I will re-send.

I suspect there have been further issues after this one; so if there are, let me know, and I will go digging for them. Take care, and see you the next letter.

#

I Also Heard From: Tom Feller, Mary Manchester

* * *

*** Closing Remarks**

As I write it's early February, and we're told to expect rain soon. I've been following the Democratic primary debates and watching lots of figure skating coverage.

See below another photo from Arches.

Deadline for next issue is expected to be on or about 12 March.

Laurraine

2020

