

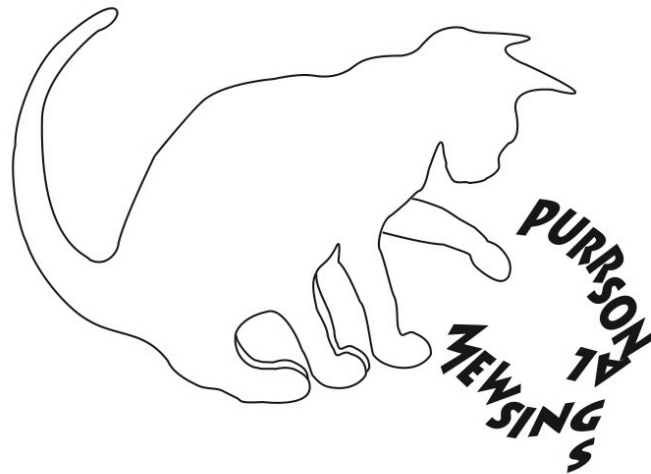
# Purrsonal Mewsings #74



*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. Kattesmint Press #490. ©2020 R-Laurraine Tutihasi.

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#74

August 2020

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## **Art and Photo Credits**

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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

The news about Covid-19 in Arizona is mixed. Testing is being ramped up all the time. This uncovers cases of illness not detected before. The worst news is on the Navajo and Tohono O'odham Indian reservations. I'm not sure about conditions on the latter, but I've heard that many Navajo do not have water in their homes. This reminds me of a native community I saw in Namibia. There they had communal water spigots. I'm not sure if that is the same thing that exists on the Navajo reservations. Mike and I are being careful and staying home except for necessary shopping and doctor appointments. When I'm out for those errands, I will stop at other shops as well, such as stopping at my comic store to pick up the titles I'm subscribed to.

I've decided not to go to a barbershop. Back a few weeks ago, the length of my hair was getting to me, especially as the weather became warmer. I had Mike trim my hair in back; I can take care of the front and sides. It looks okay to me, so I think I'll continue using that procedure until everything is safe again. We have no plans to eat out any time soon. We don't generally eat out much anyway. We wear masks when we go out away from home.

We still have not received much rain. In fact when we received about 0.02 inch of rain on Friday, 5 June, the associated thunder and lightning caused three fires in the north Tucson area. One fire, named the Bighorn Fire (photos below), continued to grow and grow until it had burned 119,978 acres before it was 100% contained on 23 July. Many places were evacuated. We received a SET order (be ready to evacuate) on 17 June. Some parts of Oracle much closer to the fire were evacuated. We could see much of the fire from our house; it was especially noticeable after dark. Our SET status was reduced to READY status on 26 June. The brunt of the fire had moved east of us. During most of the time when we were under alert, there was noticeable smokiness in the air, even seeping into our house. The alert ended not too long after as the fire near us was under control and the burning had moved eastward. The fire was finally fully contained on 23 July after we received a bit of rain. It is a great relief to us. At our house we received a third of an inch of rain in July.

\* \* \*

## \* Kritter Korner

One of my readers complained that last issue there were insufficient cats featured. I guess the lion on the cover and the photo of Amy's cat were not enough. This time I present some recent photos of Cato that I took.







\* \* \*

### \* Astronomy

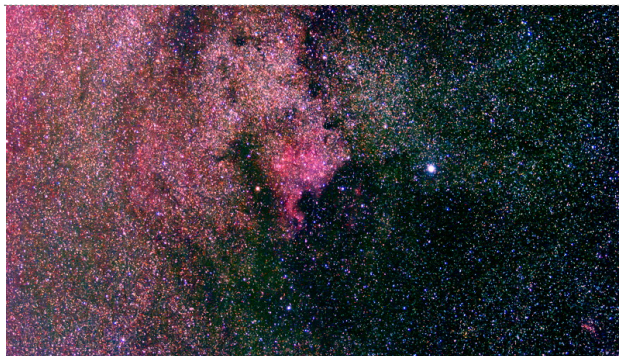
Before and after the fire Mike was able to do some astronomy, so I present some of the photographic highlights.



NGC4567 & NGC4568 Galaxies



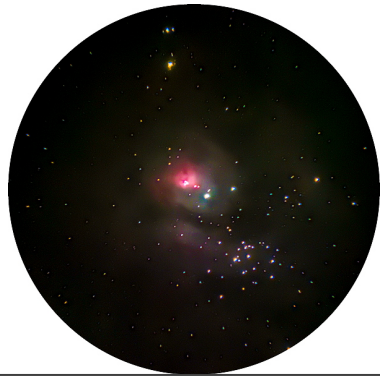
Comet NEOWISE



North American Nebula Galaxies



Cygnus Loop Nebula



Lagoon Nebula



Knife Edge Galaxy

\* \* \*

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

### **AmazingCon**

**“In the Absence of Instructions to the Contrary”** by Frank Wu, September 2016 issue of *Analogue*

I recently attended AmazingCon, my first online convention. One of the programming items I went to was a reading by Frank Wu. I had no idea that he wrote. I knew him as an artist. He did a cover for my zine many years ago.

This story is about a robot researcher and its relationship with a woman scientist. The robot has been sent to a remote island in the Pacific and is doing most of its research deep underwater. It reports to its scientist periodically. To tell you more would give away the story. Frank did his reading accompanied by many illustrations. It started out in the expected way, and I didn't expect much.

However, the ending was emotionally powerful, making me cry. I have to check out his other writing. As as I've been able to determine, he has so far published three stories.

# #

### **Bighorn Fire**

It's a bit unusual to have a review of a fire, but it was an unusual (fortunately) experience for us. When the fire started at the beginning of June, we didn't think much about it. The other fires that started on the same day were quickly doused. The Bighorn Fire in the Catalina Mountains, of which we live in the foothills, continued to grow. There was much fresh vegetation from good rainfall received during winter. Mike took a lot of photos from our house. These photos will give you a good idea of the



conditions that we faced. At its closest, the fire was about three miles away. You can see more photos at [http://www.weasner.com/co/articles/Bighorn\\_Fire\\_2020.html](http://www.weasner.com/co/articles/Bighorn_Fire_2020.html)



17 June 2020



17 June 2020



23 June 2020



24 June 2020

# #

## Books

***The Ten Thousand Doors of January***, by Alix E. Harrow

This book starts slowly, which is its only drawback. It could be a serious drawback for readers who put a book down after reading a few chapters. It's a story about a young girl named January, apparently an orphan, who is being brought up by a wealthy man.

The chapters about January are interspersed with chapters about gates between worlds or dimensions.

Eventually the two plots are brought together so they make sense. But it's almost half way in the book before this happens. I persevered, mostly because I was interested in the characters. Character development in this book is very strong, a trait that attracted me to the book and kept me reading. I found the time I spent reading it to be totally worthwhile.

#



***Middlegame***, by Seanan McGuire

As I had read and enjoyed other books by this author, I had high expectations. I was not disappointed. We start out with two main characters. One is a boy for whom literature is everything. The other is a girl mathematical genius. They are both adopted and have no information about their origins.

The readers are aware of their nefarious origins from the start, although the reasons are somewhat murky. This is a fantasy that reads much like science fiction. The fantasy element is alchemy.

The book covers the young lives of the two characters, how they meet and part again more than once. There's a lot of action and excitement along the way while keeping character development as a central theme. Strong characters are an essential element in books that I consider to be good. I found this book to be completely satisfactory.

\* \* \*

**\* 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 #334**

**Erik Biever (Friendly Bugs You Can Touch):** At one zoo we visited not too long ago, there was a room devoted to arthropods. The attendant on duty was playing with a large cockroach and offered to let me play with it, but I declined. I'm not afraid of them, but I'm not sure I want them crawling over me.

**Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever! #75):** I'm thinking of getting a self-grooming cat arch. Cato is short-haired, but he still leaves hair all over the house.

Within two months of taking Wobenzym N, we could feel its

beneficial effects. One bottle last about two months.

**Jacky Boykin (Hollywood 101: the "Talk" of the Town):** My sympathies on the curtailment of studio work during this pandemic. To keep things in perspective, the Spanish flu lasted three years. With today's advances in biochemistry, I think we might have a vaccine this time before the end of three years. In my layman's estimate, I'm thinking sometime next year for general distribution of a vaccine based on the news I've heard and read.

**Ruth Odren (The Once and Future Zine):** Antelope squirrels are the size of chipmunks.

**Joyce Maetta Odum (Pish Posh Golly Gosh):** Your mention of fire hydrants motivated me to find out what the situation is here. I discovered that the closest fire hydrant is in the town north of us. It takes about half an hour to drive there on the highway.

During the two and a half years I attended a private girls school, we learned how to walk genteely. However, I don't believe that's something that's taught in most public schools. Indeed I don't know if it is taught anywhere these days. I think it should be taught from the perspective of physical health. I learned by going through physical therapy for a couple of problems that the way I walk and stand may have contributed to those problems.

Mike is not familiar with anyone named Jessie Weasner.

**Garth Spencer (Mission Creep #10):** I doubt an anti-sports bar would be popular with many people, regardless of age.

As far as I know, we still have free forwarding of first class mail for, I believe, three months. You can keep it going indefinitely by sending in a change of address notice to the USPS periodically.

Apple computers have a save to PDF option available in the print menu. It has been this way for a number of years.

**Bill Thomasson (Musings from the**

**Gathering Dusk #32):** I read that the swine flu that came through several years ago was the same as the Spanish flu.

**Lucy Schmeidler (Don't Ask #24):** I was acquainted with the name "I Abra Cini" through Marc Glasser's zine. So sorry to hear of her passing.

Regarding my cover for *Purrsonal Mewsings #72*, I don't think there's anything in the foreground aside from rocks and shrubbery. The person in the background is some anonymous tourist.

A bird feeder can be a large commitment. I spend between fifteen minutes and an hour daily tending to my birdbaths and feeders. Of course I have five of each. The easiest kind of feeder is the platform variety where you just spread some seeds.

**Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits):** No, the person under the arch is a random stranger.

There are a variety of factors leading to shortages in stores of some commodities. Disinfectants being hard to find is totally understandable. Before this pandemic, most people didn't worry about disinfecting that much. As for articles such as toilet paper, instead of spending most of each day at work, people are spending most of their lives at home. Supplies such as toilet paper are completely different for home and industrial use. They are manufactured and sold differently. It took a while for some manufacturing to be switched over. Some restaurants that also did retail were able to sell the toilet paper that

was normally used by patrons. Social distancing also disrupted some manufacturing and transportation of manufactured goods.

We haven't seen much of the road runner lately. Maybe it was disappointed that we didn't invite him in.

I'm not sure that humans are any more civilized about territorial disputes than the antelope squirrels. At least the squirrels didn't have manufactured weapons.

Mike says he took pictures of comet Atlas, but both Atlas and Swan eventually fizzled.

Mike's dark sky talk was never written out, but you can see and hear the talk at this web site: <https://www.facebook.com/ExploreScientificUSA/videos/1593793140785251/> or <https://tinyurl.com/y2s5ghby>

Yes, I didn't see the bolide that Mike

\*\*\*\*\*

saw; I was looking the other way.

The filters I won are for telescopes. Mike has tested them out.

We don't get goldfinches here. We only get the lesser goldfinch.

I'm happy to hear that your dizziness has been successfully treated. You'll have to check with a doctor about flying.

*The Cats Came Back* sounds like an interesting book in the vein of the *Cat Who* books, though those cats didn't have any magical powers.

I had thought to get a haircut this month, but I found an easier solution at home. In late May I couldn't stand the length of my hair any more, so I asked Mike to cut it in back. I trimmed the sides and front myself. I was pleased enough with the results that I don't need to go to a barber until things get back to normal.

I wish there was rain to be singing in.

Sorry I didn't get around to commenting on disty #335. Next time. See you all in the September 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.

**John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St. No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057**

**19 May 2020**

*I note Fancyclopedia III thinks you're doing Feline Mewsings for FAPA; is that right? I thought FM had been subsumed in Purrsonal Mewsings, which says it's StippleAPA*



zine. If your *F3* entry is mistaken, a correction might be more effective from you than me; I fear that, to put it mildly, things not arriving electronically have trouble getting in the door.

((You are correct about the misinformation. Unfortunately I was unable to figure out how to update the entry and don't have time to spend trying to figure it out. *Feline Mewsings* was at one time a zine I sent through FAPA, however.

((If anyone reading this knows how to update the entry, please be my guest.))

#

**Timothy Lane, timothylane51 at gmail dot com**

**29 May 2020**

I see the issue was a bit thinner than usual, no doubt due to the lack of trips, reports of which usually make up a lot of the issue. But also no book reviews and virtually no photos. How close was the lion in that zoo? At the Louisville Zoo, there's a considerable distance from fence to lion, and an abyss in between just to make sure.

((The lion photo was taken with a telephoto lens.))

I've seen the first two Frankenstein movies, with Boris Karloff, and also *The Invisible Man*. The Movie Channel, which was once available for free at my apartment, had a set of traditional horror movies one Halloween, and I taped *Frankenstein*, *The Bride of Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *The Wolfman*, and *The Mummy* (I think in that order) as well as a couple of others (including *The Invisible Man*) that I didn't tape. (I only had 6 hours available on a videotape. It's amazing I got all 5 movies).

((Movies back then were a lot shorter.))

The version of *Frankenstein* I taped was never shown in the movies, since it included a scene that was taken out during its run (the Monster tossing a little girl into the water) as too shocking, as well as a warning introduction and additional ending (making it evident Frankenstein himself would live) that were added at the same time.

It's good to hear that Tom and Anita Feller survived the tornado. I had wondered and asked Joseph Major, because I didn't have their e-mail address.

His point about gamers being so little trouble for conventions is one that Bjo Trimble made on a panel she and I were on back at the DragonCon NASFIC.

As for the Wuhan virus, they tested us in the nursing home a week ago after a few people had come down with it. There were many more who tested positive (11 patients and some staff), but only one I know of -- the aide who does day shift about 6 days a week (and sometimes 7). I suggested to one nurse that it might be nice to send her a Get Well card, which I suspect a lot of people in this wing would be willing to sign.

#

**Gerri Balter, gerribalter at gmail dot com**

**30 May 2020**

I'm glad to hear that you and Mike are doing well.

When I saw the lion on the cover, I thought he might have come to your house for a visit.

I'm doing well. I'm lucky that I live near the Mississippi River. I can go for long walks along the walkway. Not many people are out when I am, so social distancing is not a problem.

((I should probably go for walks, but all my activities other than doctor visits and shopping are ones I do sitting down. I need to get more exercise.))

#

**David Bratman, dbratman at earthlink dot net**

**31 May 2020**

That's a wonderful photo of the Whirlpool Galaxy. Compliments to Mike for taking it. That example is pretty much my image of what a galaxy is supposed to look like. I actually felt a little shocked and dismayed when it was discovered that the Milky Way is a barred galaxy and not the spiral whirlpool that we'd always thought. There felt something aesthetically wrong about that.

We haven't paid our taxes yet; but since most of our payment comes via withholding, the government isn't suffering because of us. But that will change next year, because Berni is retiring from work. We submitted our documentation to our accountant after the shutdown started; by instruction I slipped the envelope under their closed office door, with the expectation that someone would pick it up later. Since then we've heard nothing, except when I pinged them to confirm they actually got the paperwork. Working from home doesn't seem to be going with speed for them, but so far that's all right.

((I've noted with interest the businesses I use that I have to access differently now. My bank is open, but their lobby is closed, so I have to drive up to their outside teller that uses those chutes for sending deposits, etc. Our insurance agent's office is closed, so I have been making payments through our bank's online payment system. I miss the chitchats I used to engage in.))

#

**Justin E. A. Busch, 308 Prince St. #422, St. Paul, MN 55101**

**postmarked 3 June 2020**

Well if sending *Dreams Renewed* is a good deed and receiving *Purrsonal Mewsings #73* in return is punishment, I can only hope that all my good deeds are punished in like manner.

I was glad to see that you voted for *The Curse of the Cat People* in first position for the Retro Hugo; I did so as well. *The Cat People* is a thriller and a very good one, but the sequel is really about the importance of imagination and empathy. It was Robert Wise's first credited work as a director; he took over when Gunther Von Fritzsche fell behind schedule (I discovered the film while writing a book on Wise a decade ago). Wise's later contributions to the SF and ghost story genres are mostly better known (*The Body Snatcher*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *The Haunting*, *The Andromeda Strain*, and *Star Trek: the Motion Picture*); it would be nice if *Curse* won a Retro Hugo and picked up a few more fans.

Also worthy of a nomination is *The Uninvited*, in which Ray Milland and Ruth Hussey acquire a house and its ghost and discover there is more to the story than ectoplasm and eerie sounds. I recommend it especially if, as is increasingly difficult to do, you can see it on a big screen.

((Is a 50-inch TV screen large enough?))

On a different and sadder topic, I'm sure all of your readers are well aware of the wave of protests, many of them violent, that followed the police killing of George Floyd. In Minneapolis, where the killing actually occurred, a particularly toxic stew of rage and right-wing agitation boiled over catastrophically; there and in St. Paul, hundreds of businesses, many of them minority-owned, were damaged or destroyed. Among the losses was Don Blyly's Uncle Hugo's Bookshop, the oldest fantasy and science fiction book store in the country, which was burned to the ground. A great deal of history and tens of thousands of books and magazines went with it. Even if the political will for aiding those who lost so much exists, it is impossible to imagine the bookstore ever recovering. It is a deep loss to our community.

#

**John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St. No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057**

**19 June 2020**

If you don't mind my staying with *Rocket Ship Galileo* a moment, we can learn more from it.

As to whether "secret nest of Nazis planning to conquer the Earth" was a cliché in 1947, well think of people who say "Shakespeare isn't an inventive writer (literary present



tense), he's full of trite expressions" without looking to see he in fact invented them. What was on readers' minds at the time? Compare Ian Fleming's *Moonraker*, meant for and reaching far wider audience than *RSG*. *Moonraker* has a secret nest of Nazis planning to conquer the Earth eight years later in 1955.

As to world-building remember the thrust of *RSG* (I've warned you about these puns) is "It could happen tomorrow". That means the basis of *RSG* is, to a large extent, what readers at the time would take for granted. Reading today we have to supply their perspective. In particular what would *they* supply? If we fail this, *RSG* may seem thin or opaque or both.

These two points, or one really, also show generally the difference between reading historical fiction and reading fiction written at that time.

Photos and drawings in *Mewsings* 73 are swell as usual. Both really enrich your fanzine.

#

**Tom Feller, PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214**

**22 June 2020**

Thank you for sending *Purrsonal Mewsings* #73. I am enclosing a copy of my latest SFPazine in trade. The first page consists of my description of our life during a pandemic.

I have been watching *Penny Dreadful: The City of Angels* as well. In recent years Natalie Dormer has become one of my favourite actresses. I first noticed her when she played Anne Boleyn in the *The Tudors* and have followed her in roles in *The Hunger Games*, *Elementary*, and *Game of Thrones* among others. It is nice to see her in a featured role.

In *The Curse of the Cat People*, the little girl is the daughter of two of the central characters from *The Cat People*; and the actors Kent Smith and Jane Randolph reprise their roles. The actress who played the other central character in the original, Simone Simon, appears as the little girl's supernatural or imaginary friend.

I've always had an affection for *The House of Frankenstein*. Boris Karloff is the star, although he does not reprise the role of Frankenstein's monster because he had gotten too old to wear the makeup. Instead that character is played by Glenn Strange, best known as Sam the bartender in *Gunsmoke*. I remember reading an interview with Strange in which he said that he worked with Karloff on how to play the creature.

Yes I finally made my regular dental appointment after it was rescheduled a third time.

We took advantage of a recent Star Wars marathon on TNT to refresh our memories.

#

Thank you for *Purrsonal Mewsings* 73...hope I am not too late to get some comments in. Good to see you at AmazingCon! Nothing beats being there in person, but the virtual convention model should do until the pandemic finally lifts.

((I am late getting my issue out for various reasons, including our recent fire and reading for the Hugo Awards; so you didn't miss out.))

I have heard lately that the COVID-19 levels in Arizona are way up, so please stay safe and self-isolated. In Ontario, just yesterday, we could go to the mall for a haircut. We plan to wait until our own hairstylist comes back from vacation. Restaurants will be opening perhaps in August. It all sounds appealing, but I think we will be staying at home until the numbers of COVID cases announced goes down much further. As a result of the pandemic, some popular chains are going out of business permanently.

((Like you we are not jumping at the opportunity to go to a barber or go out to eat. I have figured out a way to do a tolerable haircut with Mike's help. We were never big into eating out, so we really don't miss that. We do miss getting together with our friends from time to time. I still have to get my allergy shots every couple of weeks, and I had a dental appointment to get a filling and a gynaecological checkup. However, Mike has been postponing his regular medical appointments.))

Parks are just now starting to open up as long as we stay about 6 feet apart, but conventions and other similar events are still cancelled, and they are looking like they may be cancelled for the rest of this year. Already most of the events we'd be vending at have been rolled over to 2021. One event in August will go mostly online, but we will still be on location to present locals with some displays, which I hope will also go online.

((Our local state park is open, but there are no events scheduled.))

We find so little television we like these days, and I'd rather watch something new than a rerun, so we are searching YouTube for interesting stuff we can download. We like British shows about history, archaeology, and the railways; we're always looking for something new. If something on TV presents itself as interesting, the PVR sure helps out.

((We still have our problems with limited and frequently unreliable and expensive Internet access, so I try to limit my viewing to satellite TV. I still find a lot of movies I've never seen on Turner Classic Movies and other film channels. I also watch some movies I've seen but all but forgotten. There are quite a few series on our PBS station that I watch, and I watch a number of nature and animal related series on PBS, the National Geographic channels, and Animal Planet.))

My loc... I am still looking for books and other things to edit, and I almost got on with a medical journal. It is difficult to know if a resume is still effective...HR organizations seem to wildly change their opinion of what to look for in a resume to fill a job. It's been more than two years since I have been able to find some work in an office.

My second LoC... The armed forces were called in to manage the corona-hit long-term care home we can see from our balcony, but they left just more than a week ago. The numbers are down, thank goodness. Our own taxes are done, and I have still to find out if I truly qualify for the government assistance I have been getting. The weather has been warm and comfortable.

I am long past the deadline for this issue, I see...no matter, I promise to respond when that next issue arrives, which could be any minute now. Many thanks, and see you then.

#

**Mary Manchester, 1297 Monroe Av #2, Rochester, NY 14620-1655**

**1 July 2020**

Thank you for *PM* #73. Reading again your list of planned re-openings for May ... well! Things in AZ seem quite different now. Taken more generally I can't help wondering how much of the People in Authority are able to learn from others' mistakes, or if they all would just rather wait and learn from their own.

((Good point. Our governor is Republican.))

The few places I go seem to be enforcing mask-wearing and social distancing, or perhaps the customers are following the rules on their own. That would be reassuring.

((Our governor, although he has recently started recommending the wearing of masks, has left it to localities to pass laws regarding it. Pima County, where we do almost all our shopping and other business, has a law to enforce the wearing of masks in public; and people seem to be obeying. In addition many stores require it of their customers. Other businesses have greatly curtailed the way in which they conduct business. Our State Farm agent closed his office, and everything is done by phone, e-mail, or otherwise. My bank does not permit customers to enter the building; all banking must be done using the drive-up teller or by phone or electronically.))

Back in May one late evening, I saw all sorts of flashing lights at the top of Cobb's Hill and a hovering helicopter. That didn't look good. Turns out it was a "Ring of Light" to honour first responders in place of the parades and speeches usually held on the particular day.

All my medical appointments were scheduled for April. Ha! They were pushed back one by one into July and August. Surely by then...



Spring limped along, slow and reluctant, then May 27 we hit 92° and the lilacs burst into bloom. They are supposed to be out around Mothers Day, but the cold held them way back. After that the iris, peonies, and poppies had very short seasons. It's been a very strange everything.

#

**Richard Dengrove, richd22426 at aol dot com**

**6 July 2020**

Another letter from me. This time for *Purrsonal Mewsings* #73.

Regarding your editorial, I suspect northern Virginia has been more cheerfully following social distancing than Arizona. We're affluent enough, Liberal enough, and Eastern enough. However, being so near Washington, DC, we have our own tourist attractions, and lots of people visiting. Which means right now a lot more Coronavirus. In addition, the population has always been diverse. I remember ladies in hijabs in the '70s. For those reasons, the local government is all for social distancing.

((Sadly it wasn't until fairly recently that our Republican governor endorsed wearing masks.))

On the other hand, it has been setting up testing, a system for tracing Coronavirus cases, and hospital facilities; so I hope we can soon ease social distancing strictures.

Now onto your reviews, one was of *Penny Dreadful: the City of Angels*. It is a recent show. I remember a show in the '60s or '70s called just *City of Angels*. It was similarly vaguely historical. The episode I remember concerned a plot around 1933 to overthrow President Roosevelt. It was based on the testimony of a high ranking Marine officer, Smedley Butler, who called it the "business plot". It wasn't really a good show. However, I do remember it. .

Also, you reviewed a bunch of Japanese movies that were about disgraced samurai. I'm sure they showed copious amounts of movie blood. Which reminds me of a friend of mine. No he isn't a screen double who always ends up bloody. He is a chemist and has believed movie blood always LOOKS fake. In addition, he believes, modern chemistry is capable of making it look real. After he retired from his job with a big corporation, he decided to try to sell realistic looking blood to the movies. I wish him luck.

((I've noticed that realistic looking movie blood is used in many modern movies and TV shows.))

In talking about the Retro Hugo nominees, you mention the movie *The Canterville Ghost* and its star, Robert Young. Wasn't Charles Laughton the ghost in that?

((Yes.))

Another candidate for Retro Hugo is the movie *Donovan's Brain*. Nancy Reagan played in it. Many years later, she commented that the liberated brain who controlled people reminded her of her father. I will say he convinced Ron Reagan to change from being a Liberal to being a Conservative.

((Actually the nominated *Donovan's Brain* was the radio version.))

We go from retro movies to Letters to the Editor. I think I've read what Tom Feller said about his experience with a tornado. For now, though, all I can say is I wish him, and everyone else, luck in not getting Coronavirus.

Another letter is one of mine. You congratulated me on becoming Distinguished Toastmaster. That may have been a little premature. However, I did ultimately become a Distinguished Toastmaster, the highest rank in Toastmaster's International. For it, I got a plaque and medallion. While my club is treating me no differently, it's OK: I only did it to help the club.

After that, I see another letter from Tom Feller. I understand getting up at 7 Am to shop. That's the time set aside for us oldsters. I get up impossibly late if I can, 10 AM. Fortunately, my wife Heidi does most of my shopping for me. For that, I blow her a kiss here.♥

This is it for now. Bon voyage even if you're not travelling.

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**I Also Heard From: Ken Bausert, Ray Nelson**

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**\* Closing Remarks**

We continue to stay at home except for necessary trips to the grocery store, the PO, and the allergist. A few things have eased, and I have had a couple of doctor's appointments.

I hope all of you out there are continuing to do the prudent thing and limiting contact with others. Stay safe.

Deadline for next issue is expected to be on or about 3 September.

*Laurraine*

*1 August 2020*