

# Purrsonal Mewsings #86



*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 #513. ©2022 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 2022 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Purrsonal Mewsings* #86, [http://www.weasner.com/Purrsonal\\_Mewsings](http://www.weasner.com/Purrsonal_Mewsings)." All other material is copyrighted by their respective creators, and they should be contacted for any reprint permission.



#86

April 2022

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Editorial / Introduction—p. 2  
Kritter Korner—p. 2  
Astronomy—p. 4  
Notable Movies—p. 5  
Local Sightseeing with Linda—p. 6  
StippleAPA—p. 9  
Letters—p. 13  
Closing Remarks—p. 22

### **Art and Photo Credits**

Cover Illo/photo—Cato by editor  
Title page header—Sheryl Birkhead  
Photos—Kritters section - trail cam or editor; Astronomy section & p.7 - Mike Weasner; all other photos by editor  
Illos—p.11 by Alexis Gilliland, p. 16 by Ray Nelson

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**

I spent a lot of time watching figure skating coverage—the National Figure Skating Championships, the European Figure Skating Championships, Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, and the figure skating events at the Olympics. Four Continents is an event for skaters who don't participate in the European event.

Mike spent a lot of time trying to make his new weather station stay on the Internet. Eventually, through a friend, he found a solution by using an Internet extender to set up a hotspot.

We had over an inch of rain in January. Temperatures continued to fluctuate. Near the end of February, the weather turned cold and gave us almost four inches of snow. Otherwise it's been pretty dry.

\* \* \*

**\* Kritter Korner**

I include a few interesting photos from our camera trap.



Two Antelope Squirrels



A Lesser Goldfinch pair



Gila Woodpecker with Gambel's Quail



White-crowned Sparrow & House Finch

In addition I found a lizard in the garden shed one cold day; presumably it came inside for shelter. I snapped this with my iPhone. I think it's an Ornate Tree Lizard. In



addition the camera trap took a nice photo of two cardinals in flight. Both photos are on the previous page.

## \* **Astronomy**

Here's a photo of the skyline at sunset with Mike's observatory in mid-ground.



Below is what the Moon would look like if our eyes were more sensitive. The colours show different mineral content on the Moon's surface



The next two photos show the difference between a long exposure and a short one. Also the second one shows a narrower field of view, zooming in on the area of the Orion Nebula and the Flame Nebula.



Below is a photo of NGC1365, AKA “Great Barred Spiral Galaxy”.



\* \* \*

### \* **Notable Movies Seen**

*The Dybbuk*, Warszawski Biuro Kinematograficzne Feniks, directed by Michal Waszynski, B&W, 1937.

This is one of a few surviving Yiddish films. I saw it with subtitles on TCM. The story is a fantasy. Two childhood friends meet years later at a festival and promise each other

that if their children are male and female that they would marry. The friend who lives out-of-town unfortunately drowns on his way home. His family know nothing about the promise. When his son grows up, he travels to his father's hometown to study. His father's friend has had a daughter, but her father is planning a wedding for her to a wealthy man. When the son and the daughter meet, they are drawn to each other; but there is nothing they can do to influence the daughter's father. The father does not know that the boy is his friend's son. It's after that that the supernatural element becomes dominant.

While the film is not great, it is an interesting example of Yiddish cinema.

#

***Knives Out***, Lionsgate, directed by directed by Ryan Johnson, 2019.

I saw this on TV when it was telecast by Bravo. It features many well-known actors: Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Christopher Plummer are the ones I'm familiar with. It's a comedy murder mystery. When the patriarch of an eccentric family dies, there is an investigation. Justice prevails at the end.

I found it kept my attention, and I found the ending very satisfying.

#

***The Human Condition 1, 2, and 3***, Ninjin Club, directed by Masaki Kobayashi, B&W.

This trilogy was created over three years: 1959-1961, and depicts the difficult life of a Japanese soldier fighting in northern China during World War II. Each movie is subdivided into chapters and is very long, over three hours. It was shown on TCM with subtitles over three weeks; I watched it much later after recording it.

The main character is a pacifist. At first he gets a noncombat position in Manchuria. Unfortunately his superiors are unhappy with his attitudes, and he is eventually forced to join the army. Eventually the Japanese soldiers are captured by Russia and find themselves in a POW camp. Conditions are terrible, and the main character escapes with some others. However they must walk miles through enemy territory.

It's pretty depressing, but I think it depicts war in a fairly realistic way. I watched the trilogy over many sittings. I don't think I could stand to watch something like this in one sitting. The awfulness of war is really emphasized. According to IMDB there is an annual marathon screen of the entire trilogy; and it's always sold out.

\* \* \*

## \* **Local Sightseeing with Linda**

Linda is Mike's niece, the daughter of the older of his two older brothers. She visited us in mid-September. She has a friend in Phoenix, and her friend brought her halfway to Oracle. Mike picked her up and brought her the rest of the way. Having a visitor gave us a good excuse to go sightseeing.

There were no special activities the first day, 16 September. It was afternoon by the time Linda arrived here. Mike took her out to dinner at a local restaurant. Then she spent some time in Mike's observatory with him.



The next day we left the house about 08:30 to drive down to Kartchner Caverns. We had time to watch most of their introductory film (it started late) before we went on an 11:20 tour. Sorry, photography was not permitted on the tour.

Then we had lunch there.

After lunch we drove to Tombstone, which should be familiar to most people as the place where Wyatt Earp was US Marshall. Tombstone is a real town, but the historic area has been kept more or less as it was historically. We took in a “Gunfight at the OK Corral” show.

We had dinner at Coco’s where we hadn’t been in ages.

We got home fairly late, so there wasn’t time to do much.

Saturday morning we left the house about 10:15 to drive around the areas where Mike rides his bike to show Linda some local sights. Since I’m not with him when he rides, some of them were places I’d not been to.

We had lunch at the Oracle Patio Cafe which has only provided outside dining since COVID started. The day was pleasant, so it worked out well.

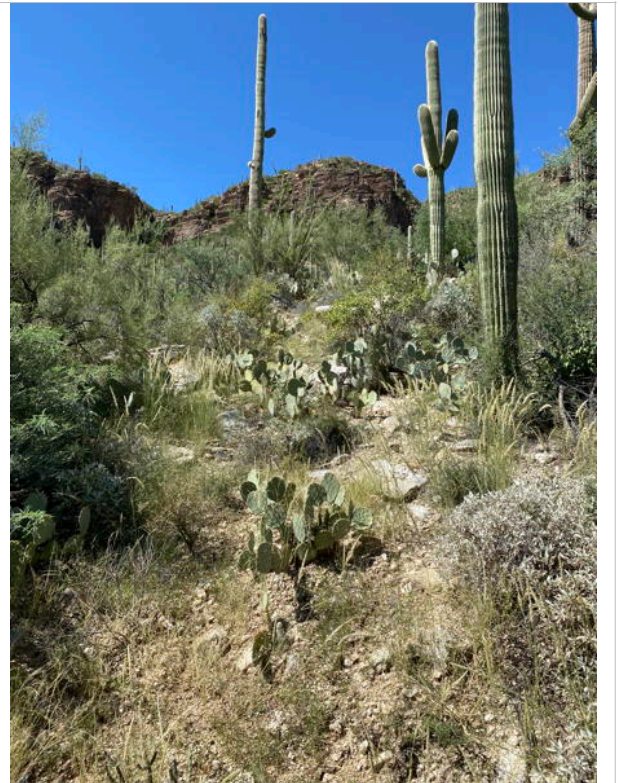
At night Mike took her to a local event called Glow that combines art with music and food. The photos below show a couple of examples of the art.



The following Monday we drove to Sabino Canyon, a park on the southern foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains. These are the same mountains that we live near, but we’re on the northern end. We wanted to ride the tram up the canyon, but there were no tickets available until 13:00. Instead we went to the Apple Store after getting tickets for later. Linda wanted to see what the iPhone 13 looked like, but they were not yet released. I had the opportunity to check out the colours on the new iMacs since I planned to get one; I decided green was best.

Then we got a light lunch at AJ’s, an upscale supermarket.

We returned to Sabino Canyon for the tram ride. Sabino Canyon has a lot of nice lush scenery with a river flowing in the middle. There are also many hiking trails for people with the time and energy to use them. The photos below give a flavour of the scenery around Sabino Canyon. After that we took the scenic highway up to Mount Lemmon, which is the highest peak in the Catalina Mountains. Some people have homes there, mostly occupied in the summer. There is also a ski resort. We saw many remnants of the 2020 fire there.



We had dinner at the Cheesecake Factory, which is Linda's favourite restaurant.

On Tuesday we went to the Reid Park Zoo in the south part of Tucson. It's changed a lot since we were there last, but it's still a nice compact place with a number of interesting animals. (See photos below of a lemur and a meerkat.) Since we were relatively close to it, we swung by the Mission San Xavier del Bac; there currently is limited access, but it was enough for Linda.



Thursday we took Linda to the Saguaro National Park East to take the scenic drive. It started raining as we headed south, but the rain stayed fairly sparse.

Friday we went to the Tucson Botanical Gardens. They feature a wide variety of plants that thrive in our climate. See examples below.



Linda left on Saturday. Mike drove her to the Phoenix Sky Harbor airport.

\* \* \*

## \* **StippleAPA**

StippleAPA is an amateur press association. An APA is like a group pen pal publication. 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. Note to non-members: these are my comments to the other APA members.

### **MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #347**

**Kathy Sidles (Looking Around):** I watched and enjoyed *Around the World in 80 Days on Masterpiece*.

**Eric Biever (Welcome to the World of Tomorrow):** In my opinion, the Corning Museum of Glass is worthwhile. It's too bad that it's in the middle of nowhere.

One of my doctors years ago had me eliminate salt from my diet for a couple of weeks just to see what would happen. My blood pressure dropped to its lowest ever, and he told

me to return to my usual eating habits. I've been checking my blood pressure most weeks at my doctor's request. It's usually in the good range. I have noticed that it tends to go up shortly before my trips—*anxiety and excitement I presume.*

The Little Lulu book you referred to is available from one of my libraries; I will request it at some point.

**Amy R. Clark (Hello and Enjoy the Ride! #4):** My sympathies on the damage to your house from the leak in

the ceiling. Leaks are pernicious things.

Sorry that you also had trouble with your furnace.

If you choose the right travel company to take you to Iceland, you should be relatively safe. National Geographic/Lindblad, with whom I travelled, were very strict. I hear that Viking are as well.

Corgi races at half-time sound entertaining.

**Chrystine (A Sparrow's Perspective):** The bobcat photo was taken from inside the house. I did go outside for a shot of the rattlesnake, but I was about thirty feet away and using a telephoto lens. My husband almost accidentally stepped on a rattlesnake once!

I think most roaches can fly. One suddenly flying at you can be very startling.

The "Y" refers either to the YMCA (originally the Young Men's Christian Association) or the YWCA. They provide many services, such as gyms, inexpensive places to stay, etc.

**Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever! #85):** Sorry to hear about your dental woes, but I'm glad they were taken care of.

**Dale Cozort (Space Bats & Butterflies):** My idea about vacations is more or less the same as your oldest daughter's. Relaxing can make me sick to my stomach.

**Joyce Maetta Odum (And So It Is It Sure Is So):** I can't wear wool even

with a lining without it irritating my skin.

Sounds like you need better health insurance. I've never paid for Prolia shots.

**Moi (Purrsonal Mewsings #85):** *Mea Culpa.* I put the wrong e-mail address for Marcia Meldrum's LoC.

**Justin E. A. Busch (Stipple-Ations):** I think I got Alan White's illo off his website. Very few of my covers were specifically created for my zines. I have no idea why the different signatures for Ray Nelson.

**Lucy Schmeidler (Don't Ask #37):** My formula for bathrooms is one for each bedroom plus one. We don't happen to have that in our house, but the second bedroom is only in occasional use. One bathroom on each floor certainly makes sense for houses with more than one floor.

**Jason K. Burnett ( #2Just Keep Swimming):** Fortunately the nightshade allergy allows me to eat them occasionally in small quantities. I don't generally eat them at home, but the mildness of the allergy comes in handy when eating out.

I'm one of the people who was turned off to history fairly early on, Fortunately I had some excellent history courses later in high school and in college, so my assessment of the usefulness of knowing history changed.

**Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits):** The Ring Nebula must be photographed

over a period of time to detect the colours. Unfortunately our eyes are not equipped for time exposures.

The tallest of the organ pipe cacti are two to three times the height of a person.

Torchwood is an anagram of Doctor Who.

Meclizine is also used for

\*\*\*\*\*

seasickness. I discovered that one tablet is too strong for the mild seasickness I suffered on my circumnavigation of Iceland.

Interesting about softening an acorn squash in the microwave.

It seems to me that an outdoor sauna would just let the heat escape.

## ZOMBIE HUMOR



### MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #348

**Kathy Sidles (Looking Around):** Putin has no one but “yes men” in his government now.

With climate change, just feeding the birds in bad weather is not really an option. In this climate, also, the birdbaths are even more important than the feeders. We don't live very

close to any natural bodies of water. The nearest river is a mere trickle in the summer. This year the lesser goldfinch are very visible at my feeders. Usually they feed solely on plants, but we have no plants blooming on our property now. It's been so cold, and we haven't had

much precipitation yet this year. The mild weather between the cold spells have only lasted for ten days to a couple of weeks at a time. I'm hoping that the current cold spell will end the cycle; I'm writing this on 10 March.

**Chrystine (A Sparrow's Perspective):** The first microcomputer I ever used was an Apple Macintosh. I wasn't told where the manuals were (I later found them), but I was able to figure out how to use the programs. When I got around to buying my own personal computer, I bought a Microsoft clone, mostly because that's what most of my friends had. I wanted to be compatible. I liked the DOS interface much better than the Apple GUI. However, when Microsoft started imitating Apple's interface, I figured I'd rather use the original than an imitation. About the time I made that decision, I met my future husband. He has been with Apple from the beginning. He started on an Apple II. So my first Apple computer was a hand-me-down. All our handhelds are also Apple products. They've worked for us.

**Garth Spencer (Mission Creep #23):** There was no explained motivation in Robinson's Mars trilogy, because it wasn't really fiction. The books were thinly disguise theory with stick figures as characters. I've found all his writing to be this way. The only reason I read and mostly enjoyed the Mars trilogy was because I was interested in his theories.

Based on Murray Moore's opinion

about being able to enter Canada for a convention, I ordered a supporting membership in Corflu. The date of Corflu has now been moved to October, but the date is too close to another trip I'm going on.

**Jason K. Burnett (Just Keep Swimming #3):** In case you hadn't heard, Uncle Hugo's bookstores are set to reopen at a new location.

**Lucy Schmeidler (Don't Ask #38):** I almost always address my cat by name.

**Joyce Maetta Odum (Persiflage Confusing But Not Amusing):** As far as we can tell, Mike has totally recovered from his accident. Thank you for your concern.

**Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #46):** A number of years ago, I heard Kate Wilhelm describe her method of writing. She said she didn't necessarily write her chapters in order. After everything was written, she organized all the chapters.

When I was in England during my college years, I studied world history from the British point of view. It was very enlightening. Not only did they have a different point of view, but the material covered was quite different from what we got in schools here. Due to pay walls put up by much media, I have an online subscription to *The Guardian*; they don't charge anything, so I voluntarily pay. As an added bonus, I get a slightly different point of view.

I sure hope you're right that US democratic traditions are too strong to be readily overthrown.

Doing a zine every other disty still requires the same amount of time doing comments, but I find writing the rest of my zine to be the most time-consuming part.

I can't use WordPerfect without running a Windows simulation, and I'm not prepared to go that far. If I write a document in Pages, it's very little effort to export to Word if that's what's required.

When I was going to junior high, I was living about a mile from school. It's interesting that walking home at the beginning of the school year could take nearly an hour, but eventually I could do the walk in fifteen minutes. In the morning, my father dropped me off on his way to work.

**Marge Sehnert (Mamma's Mutterings):** Many planets have been discovered around many stars. There is the possibility of life on some of them, but life has not yet been

\*\*\*\*\*

I hope to read all your zines again in six weeks.

\*\*\*

discovered on other planets.

**Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits):** The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum sounds like something I'd like to see when I'm there in August; is that a good time to see it?

According to the Internet, the eider ducks in Iceland are called Common Eider Ducks. They are often called "sea ducks", because that's where they're typically found. The ducks we saw were apparently all female. The male ducks probably go away when breeding season is over. The males are black and white. If they were there, I probably didn't realize that they were also eider ducks.

Despite being in the first class section of Alaska Airlines, it was just like being in regular class except that the seats were wider. There were no extras at all. There was some free food, but it was all snack food.

The timing of the rescheduled Vancouver Corflu will not work out for me.

**\* 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.

**Linda Deneroff, lindad at isomedia dot com**

**27 January 2022**

Fabulous issue. I was going to just save it for later, but then I read about Mike's accident and kept on reading. I LOVED your travelogue of Iceland. You're more adventurous than I am. I don't think I would take such a trip alone. But I got to live it vicariously through you!

After Worldcon I went up to New York to visit family. Along the way I nearly lost my cell phone (the cabbie returned it), and a couple departed the train in Philadelphia taking my big suitcase with them and leaving theirs. They were an hour outside Philly when I was ready to get off in New York, and the train conductor was a godsend. In the end, the suitcases were switched back, and I spent the next month upstate with my sister. I just got back a week ago today.

#

**leah fisher, ladyfei at yahoo dot com**

**28 January 2022**

Thanks for sending the link to your APazine *Purrsonal Mewsings* #85.

I very much enjoyed your travelogue for Iceland. That is one place I have always wanted to see because of my interest in both geology and Scandinavian culture.

I haven't traveled anywhere for five years now since I had some major abdominal surgery. I hope that resting up and exercising properly during the pandemic may allow me to take short trips in the future, but I don't expect to attend many more SF cons again. ((\*Sigh!\*))

October 2021 I moved into a 55+ apartment building and drastically downsized my possessions (including my personal library). On October 1, 2022, I retired from my librarian job with the Milwaukee Public Library/Wisconsin Talking Book & Braille Library. So now I'm slowly going through everything to determine which books I actually will keep.

I still write a zine ((\**Minding My Ps & Qs*\*)) for MILWAPA which also counts Trinlay Khadro among its members. Lately our membership seems to be losing folks to age-related illnesses. We are finding it hard to recruit younger folks who like to write for apas either in paper or digital form. The inability of the younger crowd to concentrate on writing longer (more than 140 characters) entries without typos or emos make come into play here. OWTTMP.

((Neither StippleAPA nor ANZAPA seem to be experiencing problems maintaining a healthy membership. StippleAPA is a paper APA. ANZAPA was paper but became electronic after COVID started.))



Thanks again for a pleasant afternoon of reading.

#

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

**31 January 2022**

Thank you for sending *Purrsonal Mewsings* #85. I am enclosing my latest SFPazine in trade.

We had four snowfalls in January, which is a lot for Nashville. One of them was over 6 inches! Temperatures have been a little below normal.

I always felt that the basic premise of *Twelfth Night* is that people are really, really near-sighted. Anita and I saw a live performance in an outdoor theatre years ago. Pre-pandemic, of course.

We got our COVID booster shots, the Moderna like our first two shots, during a mass vaccination event here at McKendree, the retirement community where we now live. I still wear a mask, because I worry that I could get the COVID without realizing it and give it to someone who might get really sick.

#

**Trinlay Khadro, 1734 S 56th St, West Allis, WI 53214**

**1 February 2022**

Sorry to hear about Mike's accident. Hope that he's healing well and that the police are taking the report seriously.

((He is completely healed. The police took the report seriously, but there wasn't much they could do without a licence plate number.))

Cato remains adorable.

I've seen Nala and her human online.

Your travels are fascinating and I enjoy the trip reports

Marcia Meldrum: Tolly is beautiful and looks like a sweetie.

#

**Murray Moore, murraymoore at gmail dot com**

**2 February 2022**

I assumed that Mike was driving a car until you said he was riding a bicycle. I ride my bicycle but not on busy streets, let alone a highway. Mississauga has a decent network

of streets the sides of which are marked for bicyclists, also paved trails shared by pedestrians and bicyclists.

((There are towns in our vicinity with nice bicycle paths. Unfortunately we are not close enough to them. Oracle is unincorporated and lacks a lot of amenities that other places have. And Oracle Road, where Mike was riding, is only intermittently busy. That's why there is only a stop sign at the corner where Mike was turning.))



I now have a scab below my left knee resulting from my riding. I was riding behind buildings in a mall. The paved surface was not cleared of snow. I was riding slowly when my wheels went rightward. My left foot slipped when I put it down to brace myself. Losing a patch of epidermis is my sole bicycle-riding injury.

Riding around the world: Dean Nicholson is braver than I. I would not ride through Mexico and Central America without an armed escort.

((So far he is still in Europe. His previous plans to go into Russia have been foiled by Putin.))

You were more adventurous in 2021 than Mary Ellen and myself. The only mingling we did in 2021 was attending a small wedding (a nephew of Mary Ellen's), church service and subsequent reception/dinner.

Did you know the cave was artificial before you arrived? During my only cruise (Auckland to Sydney: Mary Ellen let me choose) on the South Island, I chose the option of kayaking in the cone of an extinct volcano. Sounds terrific, yeah? Enter through a crevasse then float below the top of the volcano, in shadow unless the sun is high in the sky. That's an experience. I am ferried from our cruise ship to shore. I find my group. We get in two vans and we are driven along the shore for maybe five minutes. We get in our kayaks. And I can see our cruise ship. I woke up in our cruise ship inside an extinct volcano. Which, to a non-volcanologist, looks like a bay. Not best pleased was I.

((I believe I knew that the ice cave was artificial before I got there. Because it was built for research purposes, it pretty much resembles a natural one.))

Your Iceland report reminds me of reading a novel by Roy Jacobsen, *The Unseen*, first novel in the Barroy Trilogy. Shortlisted for the 2017 International Man Booker Prize. About the experience of a family living alone on a Norwegian island before the Second World War. Also I am reminded I want to read the next novel, *White Shadow*.

You can't drop your Stipple-APA membership, Laurraine. I need to be able to complain to Cy through your contribution that he owes me a letter.

You probably know –if you do not-- Corflu Pangloss is moved from March to October. Perhaps after all we will see you in Vancouver.

((I did know about the change of date for Corflu Pangloss. I don't know whether I'll make it. It is rather close to a trip to LA we are making in late September-early October.))

#

**David Schlosser, schloss17 at suddenlink dot net**

**10 February 2022**

A few thoughts on *PM #85*.

First off Laurraine, thanks for keeping me on the mailing list.

Sort of a close call for Mike. Glad the damage was (relatively) mild, and I hope you can track down the car and driver involved.

((Since we did not have a licence plate number, trying to ID the vehicle is just about impossible.))

SFPA is having "discussions" about moving to a PDF format as well. I don't recall the exact breakdown of "preferences" although there clearly are those with definite ones on either side of the issue. Overall the pros seem to focus on cost and mailing issues while the cons are more about not being able to read without having to have one's computer and about having to flip screens between reading and commenting. Essentially cost vs

convenience. All I know for sure is that a) I won't OE it in PDF and b) my zines will almost certainly be shorter.

((When ANZAPA switched, a few people dropped out, but more people joined/rejoined. I believe some people are printing it out for reading, a rather expensive procedure since the page count has been over five hundred pages. I read it online, a habit I developed when I was in other eAPAE, though none were anywhere near as large.))

Those pictures of the nebulae somehow remind me of the SFX of "incoming weaponry" from various Trek episodes/films.

The Iceland trips sounds, er, cool. Probably not Kay's cup of tea however. And just what is an "Icelandic Hot Dog"?

((The question was asked before we had them, but we did not receive a definitive answer. They tasted just like other hotdogs to me.))

Have a good week and say "HI" to them rattlers!

#

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

**11 February 2022**

This responds to *Purrsonal Mewsings* 85.

First about your editorial. I couldn't say the same thing about DC Weather. For DC, in the past several weeks, it's been very cold. What is worse, it started with a humongous snow fall, the type which DC rarely gets anymore. The last time was over ten years ago. The first day, highway 95 was one big traffic jam. The one between Richmond and DC. Tractor trailers jack-knifed. Some people waited 24 hours or more before traffic started moving. I don't know what happened to those who ran out of gas.

I could go on but I better not.

Next about Mike. I hope he heals soon and you two get the person responsible for that accident. Now about your reviews. As you say, "Books and a Play." Onto *Harrow the Ninth*. It sounds really bad. There is a lot of leeway for people to like or dislike novels. But not if they are confusing. I wonder how that novel became a Hugo nominee?

((The injuries Mike suffered were mild enough that it didn't take him long to recover. Without a licence plate number, trying to catch the culprit is nearly impossible.))

Onto *Twelfth Night*. Shakespeare was renowned in Elizabethan times for the way he handled words. However, I imagine a lot of modern people liked his bawdy and crazy plots. I bet the same was truer of the Elizabethans.

Now your vacation in Iceland. God, it sounds like it was tough going. Some of your activities sound cold and wet. On the other hand, no matter how tough going the activities, something interesting to you came with them. On the other hand, your activities don't sound as tough going as those that required a lot of hiking. They must have been for younger, more physically fit tourists.

One thing in Iceland I would have found great is all those meals with fish. I love fish.

Somehow your trip to Iceland reminds me of an anecdote. A woman I know worked for the American Air Force there. In all the time she was there, she never saw the Northern Lights. Then her son visited Iceland for a few days and saw them. She said she was jealous.

Now a comment on Stipple-APA. Answering Bill Thomasson, you say you have dental insurance that pays at least part of the dental fees. I have to forget that. At 76, my dental expenses are for dentures not teeth, and I don't think there's insurance for them. On the other hand, I not only can chomp like I did with teeth; they look like perfect teeth. So maybe they're worth it.

Also, in answer to others, you find that, if you only eat a little bit of the food you're otherwise allergic to, you can eat it without any problem,. Good. You don't need to deprive yourself totally.

((I find myself mostly avoiding the nightshades. I figure my tolerance for small amounts should be reserved for when I'm eating out.))

Now I will start with the letters to the editor. Since my letter is the first, it is one easy for me to start with. In answer to a previous letter of mine, you say people with empathy will take precautions against spreading COVID. My answer is not if, like so many people, they believe COVID is a hoax.

Next, I will go on to Andy Hooper's letter. I have to thank him for the compliment. Also, I have to commiserate with him about how uncolourful zines were in the old days. I never had to do mimeo, but I can remember photocopying my zine in stores. Colour was regarded as too expensive for the likes of fans. Still, sometimes I paid out.

Next I will go on to Lloyd Penney's letter. My fingers are still crossed that he get a decent job. Also, I am glad he is losing weight. I am too, over 40 lbs. My happiness over this is limited, though. I suspect it's due to a type of leukaemia. Fortunately, it's very slow growing.

((Sorry to hear about your leukaemia.))

Next I will go on to Alan White's letter. He points out that Pluto hasn't cleared its orbit. However, some people claim Jupiter hasn't cleared its orbit either. How tight is the definition of clearing one's orbit?

((I'm the one that pointed out the clearing the orbit aspect of real planets. There is still a dispute among professional astronomers about the status of Pluto.))

Next, I will go on to Thomas Feller. I guess lawyers picked you to be on juries because you knew about the law. I know something about it because, as one of the chief administrative cooks and bottle-washers in my agency, I had to. But no one asking questions of jurors ever tried to find out. ...Also, I probably don't know a tenth of what you know.

Next I will go on to Murray Moore. I remember meeting him at Corflu in Washington, DC. We had a fun night one night. Can he get me to a Canadian Corflu? The problem is, at my age, even greater forces are telling me not to go to cons.

Next, I will go on to Robert Kennedy. Unlike him, I probably don't look like jury material. But I still say that the court has a wide selection to choose from in my county.

Next, I will go on to Ed Zdrojewski. I agree with him. Sometimes listening to someone with different views helps me think better. ...That and obeying the rules of logic.

Next, I will go on to Lloyd Penney. I hope he got well-paid for editing that 488-page book. He may need money like that if Toronto gets gentrified. Some movers and shakers are gung ho about making my area gentrified, but so far their efforts have been in vain. For instance, lots of expensive stores have gone belly up here.

Finally, I will go onto Marcia Meldrum. I wish to tell her I agree with Laurraine: Laurraine doesn't do anything that is risky or too difficult. However, her vacations sound more like learning experiences than fun experiences. Of course, I don't mind some learning while on vacation.

((The important thing is that I find my trips enjoyable.))

That's it.

#

**Lloyd Penney, penneys at bell dot net**

**24 February 2022**

Many thanks for *Purrsonal Mewsings* 85. Very cold out tonight and not much else to do at this time, so fanzines fill the time available. I have your zine up and ready to go.

Years ago, we had an outdoor weather station of our own, not connected to the Web, but it was meant to stay outside on the other side of the kitchen window. On an especially cold day, it broke. All elements lit up, all went out, and it never worked again. We weren't too surprised, wind chills of -35°F aren't all that uncommon in the winters here.

I have a lot to do, too, so I make regular lists. I may have several on the go at any time, but for me it's the only way I remember everything. Right beside me is a list of things to

do to add to my main list, and I also use a weekly list to ensure I get regular things done through the week.

I hope Mike is recovering well from the collision, I won't call it an accident. If they took all the bad drivers off the road, we'd have no accident or traffic jams. I see compendiums of bad drivers on social media, and none of it really surprises me.

A lot of airlines fly planes to Europe via Reykjavik. IcelandAir will take us from Toronto to London with a layover in Reykjavik; but once you are there, the prices for even the basics is ridiculous, for they have to import just about everything; and you will pay premium prices for it. The first time we flew to London, we considered going to Iceland; but once we did our research, we decided against it.

The LoCcol...we didn't need a smartphone for our vaccines, but we would print our receipts we'd get in e-mail from the provincial regulators, print them at 45%, and put them in a plastic badge holder on a lanyard. The latest QR code for our vaccination record is also there for a quick scan. It's been handy.

The COVID shots do not prevent you from catching the coronavirus, but makes it a lot less likely to catch it and get sick from it. The additional doses keep your resistance up, and I have been told that we might have to get a fourth dose to still keep our resistance up. Some professions have been mandated for shots, especially for dealing with the public and crossing the border, trying to make sure it doesn't spread. The QAnon/Sons of Odin convoys, under the cover of a handful of childish truckers who didn't want to get the shots, I don't wanna, I don't hafta, you can't make me, nearly shut down Ottawa, and messed things up in a handful of Canadian cities. Thanks to professional policing, there were no injuries. Now, I have heard that another much bigger convoy, with probably more alt-right and white supremacist people hidden within its masses, are planning to do to Washington what they did to Ottawa. I doubt there will be no injuries this time.

Your comments to me via Rich Dengrove's letter are spot on. I started getting vaccines after catching COVID. I read that I'd have a little resistance...good thing we caught it early. Also it's easy to spread it around; and we caught it from surfaces that the unvaccinated had touched in our building, like doorknobs and elevator push buttons. We don't want it, and we don't want to pass it on to others, but too many others don't understand, don't want to understand, or just don't care. This is where empathy comes in, to eliminate COVID by trying to make sure no one else can catch it.

That anime convention's market was a good time, and our sales were good, but attendance was lower than expected because there is still fear of catching COVID and becoming part of the horrific statistics, catching COVID in a crowd. They stayed home, so no crowd. We're now marking the first anniversary of our catching COVID. To celebrate that another Canadian company, Novavax, has come up with another vaccine they hope can be added to the arsenal against the virus. If it is, it will be the fifth such vaccine for the Canadian market.

One of those vaccines is made by Moderna, but I did see recently that Moderna's stock has crashed, and that over \$150 billion of value is gone. I had thought their revenues were sky high because of the worldwide sale of their vaccines. I have no idea why their stock crashed, and I cannot find any explanation online. The big show we were hoping to work was cancelled, but we hope other shows are on the way. I need the money.

And for the record, I do not share an email address with Marcia Meldrum.

((Sorry about that booboo. I didn't manage to catch it in time.))

This must have been a good issue, for I got a sizeable LoC out of it. Off it goes to you, many thanks, and see you next issue.

#

**WAHF: Mary Manchester**

\* \* \*

**\* Closing Remarks**

If all goes according to plan, my next issue will be at the beginning of July. Deadline will be about two weeks before then.

*Laurraïne*  
15 March 2022