

MMXXiii Annual Letter from ajo at *The Cat Drag'd Inn*



How Am I, Doing? I am doing much better this year. Downs and Ups as usual but the Downs are not as deep—except for two—and the Ups seem to be lasting longer. All in all that's better. First off was the passing of Trail Angel of the Toaster House, my good friend and benefactor Nita¹. "When the door of the mathom shop is closed and the Inhabitant leaves the print of her footsteps for a moment on the wooden stair, things pause. There is no movement, not even of time." —Lewis Turco, *The Shifting Web*

Much of Spring was taken up with preparations for Summer. Quartzsite came and went OK. Pie Town would not be the same without Nita. Instead of building pies I'd mostly be helping her family with the cleaning up after. Nita was a consummate collector: bottles (full or empty), books, trees, clothes, steamer trunks and foot lockers, cars, trucks, camper trailers, VHS tapes, and DVD movies. Not to mention rolling pins and commemorative coffee mugs. Among other things. Lots of works to do.

A test drive to Deming New Mexico went well and a few Ajo Lily plants

bloomed in the yard.

April was next, a lot going on². TinyTruck needed her throwout bearing replaced, Earth Day, Happy Big Wind Day, the invasion of Stinknet, The Feast Day of Saint George, Towel Day, and the death of another of my boyhood chums Dennis Ahern.

Happy May Day presaged the other big Downer of 2023. On the 16th *The Cat Drag'd Out* of Tonopah headed for Pie Town via Mormon Lake. A day of sailing on the lake, a day of walking on The AriZona Trail, and a day of driving secondary and tertiary roads through Payson to Hwy280 MM 277, just short of the height of land where the truck fire³ was a year or so ago. There I stopped for a cup of tea. On the 19th *The Cat was Drag'd Back* to Tonopah on the hook of a half million dollar wrecker. Twenty-eight-hundred dollars for the tow, another 900\$ for a rebuild of the 3208's injector pump, most of a month sitting on the Handicap Pad at Allan's Tonopah Garage. AAA eventually reimbursed me 500\$ of the towing fee. The root cause likely was a matter of bad-stale fuel and not enough driving to keep the gunk from building up. Thanks especially to Allan, AAA, Paul, Patrick, Michael, Greg, and Nita's Estate for helping me ride out this assault on my sanity.

In August I set out again. Tonopah, Mormon Lake, Winslow, Holbrook, Red Hill⁴, Pie Town. Lots of cleaning up to do along with getting ready for a grand Celebration of Life for Nita at the town park. After the Autumnal Equinox *The Cat Drag'd Out* of Pie Town for Tonopah via Deming. The next big adventure was when the library book shelf hanger broke and I had to use *TinyTruck's* jack to lift the shelf up and replace the hanger.

Back in Tonopah the CritterCam had been busy catching critters posing for selfies.

In November my Annual Poke&Prod has all the numbers in the green—fit as a fiddling geezer can be—but for one: Lead is in the Yellow. Occupational and avocational exposure: Too much sniffing solder?

Right leg sciatica is acting up again. This time I am starting out with the CHiropractor and PhysicalTherapy. I need to walk more and write fewer letters. More moving and fewer movies.

Winter Solstice—A Strange Thing Happened On My Way To The Exit.

At CheckOut I had scanned my two items of PVC and was unzipping my wallet for a \$2.27 piece when this heavyset guy a head a head taller and behind me in the queue said Here let me get that; I'll pay for that. I looked up in surprise and he said again, Here, let me get that for you; do you need the receipt? I fumbled my wallet out of the way and said No--no thanks as he scanned his item. Thank you very much I said again and we shook hands and wished each other a happy holiday.

How are you doing?

1 <http://thecatdragdinn.org/ajo23a.html>

2 <http://thecatdragdinn.org/ajo23b.html>

3 <http://thecatdragdinn.org/ajo21d.html>

4 <http://thecatdragdinn.org/ajo23c.html>

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Researching OXTON, SCOTT, NEWTON, FIELD

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Laundry: Aftermath of A Cold



The Cat Drag'd Inn is a Travel Bug



Sputnik. I was in HighSchool when...



Jacking Up A Shelf of Books



Ajo Lily



CritterCam: Redtail Hawk Selfie

All The Gory Details and Lots More can be found at <http://thecatdragdinn.org/migo.htm>

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