

BITS OF MY BORING LIFE #1

Rodney Leighton,  
11 Branch Road, R.R. #3,  
Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia,  
B0K 1V0, CANADA

I enjoyed reading the THE KNANLEY NEWS #122 the day it arrived, mostly.

The mostly useless CBC broadcast an IQ test, 2 hours, lots of crap, 60 questions, bunch of people in studio, tattoo artists, surgeons, millionaires (sure!) I ended up with 106. Don't know whether that is good or bad; higher than the celebrities they had in studio; top average was 118 or so, not that far off.

THE

THE SANDS OF TIME by Sidney Sheldon; a wide ranging novel of God and her children and the things they all do to one another; Franco's goons bomb a village, the Catholic Church locks out the villagers who are shot down by soldiers; one boy survives and becomes a terrorist; his murders are justified by claiming to be fighting for freedom; soldiers attack a convent; 4 nuns escape; all have strange histories; they meet with the gang of terrorists; fall in love and so on. Quite good novel if one is interested in the sad and terrible things that people and God do to each other; to family; and to themselves.

This is intended as partially a record for myself of what I read in 2007. Since I am planning on getting it copied periodically and inserting said copies in letters sent to people who have written me a letter or sent me a zine or other gift, I am going to insert some other comments. Like: the people who vote for American Idol have a history of voting off sexy females with good voices in favor of pretty boys and goofy guys and they did it again this week when they ditched Stephanie and kept 3 guys who shouldn't be in the top 20 much less the top 10.

OFF SIDE; Hockey From The Inside by Stan Fischler, published 1985. Stan was a cranky guy who wrote some rather vitriolic prose. No idea if he is still around. I liked his stuff. Book has some interesting chapters on a number of NHL stars and others from the 70s and early 80s. Intriguing was that they were beefing about the officiating back then; it still sucks. Good book for the 2 bucks I paid.

Mar. 30, 4 years since I started grieving for my mother. Yesterday brought a book in the mail from someone who liked what I did. It's one of those sh things; I will try to read it.

ASK ANYONE by Sherry Woods. Weird Romance novel; the normal style of guy appearing and invading a gal's life, body and heart, not necessarily in that order, is turned upside down, with a female who invades a guy's life and remains the driving force; even in the sex scene. Strange families; interfering, manipulative people.

The book was TIME AND AGAIN by Clifford D. Simak. People have recommended this guy as an author. First few pages were okay but then there were far future lives; teleports; space ships and space ports and such silly shit and I reached page 30 and abandoned it. I was just looking at the price on the cover: 40¢. Sheesh. Copyright 1951. I was 3 years old. I often wish I was again. Guy on the radio is singing about having a bad day. I know about those. I am awaiting the sports report; big time race in the NHL, east for the final 2 playoff spots; my Canadiens and 5 other teams. Habs played last night. Lost, no doubt. Then I have to go do some silviculture. Yep, lost. Team doesn't deserve to be in the playoffs; I still hate to see them out.

THE WHITE MAN'S ROAD by Benjamin Capps, historical Western; quite good, covered a lot of ground, including the hypocrisy of the white missionary.

DRY WATER by Eric S. Nylund. A fantasy novel full of ghosts; necromancers, witches; adventure; time travel; love and death. Judas goes by the name Nick now although he prefers his real name that he has had since the beginning of time; Judzyas, a poor soul who has always tried to prevent major change and disaster, mostly by killing a prophet and missing, or by not foreseeing the outcome: having Jesus killed did not work as he had expected. An intriguing novel, albeit somewhat absurd.

SHATTERED by Dean R. Koontz; a novel of obsession, insanity and love conquering fear.

GUN LAW AT LARAMIE by Allan Vaughan Elston; not bad western, half historical; half fiction.

March 1 was one of those lousy days in which I had to leave work and spend the rest of the day in the chair; takes 3 times as long to get to the mailbox and back as usual. Figured there would only be the Zellers flier. But there was PEREGRINE NATIONS 6.4. I was deep into HIDEAWAY by Dean Koontz which is a bit more than twice as long as SHATTERED and about half as good but the final portion was quite compelling with Uriel sends Vassago back to Hell. Probably not worth reading again. Read P.N. after I finished it. Chuck Connor! writes about Gibraltar; Lyn McConchie on small villages, lotsa locs and more. Good issue.

THE APACHE FIGHTER by Will Cook; quite good western.

THE CAVEMAN by George Dawes Green. Probably the weirdest mystery novel ever, it was enjoyable at times, weird beyond reason at times; boring at times and compelling at some points. Third of the 5 books from N.Z.; also the third best.

THE VISION by Dean R. Koontz; talk about family disrepair; 9 year old boy tortures his 6 year old sister; kills many people over the years; sister survives to become psychic; 24 years later there is a big finale. Mystery, psych horror, murder; philosophy; paranormal activities; ghosts; love; what more can you want?

McKETCHICK'S CHOICE by Linda Lael Miller, historical romance; a strange mix of western, romance, humor and literature of life. Blasted woman switched part of the plotline in mid book and then switched back again near the end. Did no one notice?

SLOCUM and the NOOSE OF HELL by Jake Logan; #89 in a long running series of adult westerns. Don't know how many I have read.

Don't know how many books I have read this year, either. One of the things which prompted this was a letter from Steve George which told me about something called the 50 book challenge, some sort of internet thing which challenges you to read 50 books in a year. I know people who read that many per week. But, for myself: do anthologies and collections like RDCBs count as one or 4 or however many books there are included? Does it matter when I started the book. Counting everything under one cover as one book and ignoring the start date, I am now at 27 for the year. If I eliminate those started before 2007 started, I am at 24 or so. Count RDCBs as 4 books each, I am at 36. Hmnnn.

During March I received 3 zines; 2 letters and one book. There have been times in my life that this would have bothered me greatly.

LONGARM in the Badlands sees Longarm rescued by Teddy Roosevelt who helps in a case; Longarm gets laid 3 or 4 times but Teddy is apparently faithful even though he is not yet married.

Believe it or not, I started watching Dancing With The Stars. Why? Because of the legs, of course! Actually, I saw a promo and noticed there were lots of nice female legs on display but also they have Muhammed Ali's daughter, the bare breasted boxer. And rich bitch Heather Mills, false leg and all, who came up here and made a lot of noise about the seal hunt. She's easily the ugliest female on the show but it is intriguing what she can do; Ali, last week, was the sexiest thing going. I likely won't watch long but to be honest, curiosity satisfied, I now find the show kind of interesting.

DEAD FREIGHT FOR PIUTE by Luke Short. Damned good Western. I seem to be returning to an earlier period of my life when every other book I read was a Western.

Easter brought the biggest snowstorm of the winter.

On April 4, thinking about my mum who went to a better place 4 years ago that date, I left work early, went to the village, stopped in at a secondhand store where I found a Buchanan book I hadn't read! Cover looks familiar but I can't remember ever reading it and I did not have it in my collection. Mum liked these books as did the old man. I don't know how many there were. BUCHANAN SAYS NO is not the best of the bunch, although I haven't read any of the others in some time. I now have 14. Written by Jonas Ward; this one was published in 1957.

I also bought a Koontz book that looked familiar but I didn't recall it. MIDNIGHT is one of the better ones although during some of the pure sf sections I was muttering imprecations and some portions are absurd even for a sf Horror novel. But I liked it quite well; I have read it before but I can't find it among the collection. Published in 1989 so it was written before Dean decided to write literature. Probably won't keep it.

UNDER LOCK AND KEY by Sylvie Kurtz. Harlequin Intrigue novel; not bad. I used to like these quite a bit until I got sick of the guy invades gal's life, liberty, house, body and heart, not necessarily in that order, plots. That applies here but there were some neat twists; a castle c/w moat and dungeon for one.

THE SECRET ADVERSARY by Agatha Christie. First published in 1922! Tommy and Tuppence have adventures. One of the sillier books by Dame Agatha.

THERE ARE NO SPIES By Bill Granger. Funniest spy novel ever written!

ODESSA BEACH by Bob Leuci; a novel of Russian crooks and lovers; a weird cop; Mafia goons and Russian goons in N.Y.; death, intrigue, a bit of philosophy. 1985; decent read.

TORMENT by Stephen R. George. 1994. A riveting account of 2 little girls and their parents; death of one; possession of the other. Seances, a foolish guy with no self confidence, with whom I could identify until he started cheating on his beautiful wife with a not so nice woman and went nuts otherwise; over bearing grandparents... great book. I'm not sure when this one came although it was brand new, and autographed, so I suppose about 1995 sometime. I read it then. Didn't remember much of it at all.

April 23, 2007 marks the date of my latest attempt to stop smoking. Let's see how many weeks, days or hours it lasts.

Lasted 5 days.

BUCHANAN'S BLACK SHEEP by Jonas Ward. One of the later ones, Tom is getting old. Still gets in a range war, finds love, befriends a little black lamb and some indians and folks. Only kills one person. A good book.

THE NAME'S BUCHANAN by Jonas Ward; another good one, Buchanan gets beat up, laid ...although these are old style westerns so there are no boring sex scenes... beats up some people ...fun book; slim at 127 pages, read it all yesterday.

BUCHANAN'S BIG SHOWDOWN; a bit longer; published 1976; Buchanan and Coco get into a war; have some fights. Tom finds a woman . I like these books.

May 2. My current job is nice. Quiet place; I can sometimes hear a dog or a vehicle on the road. It was rather noisy this morning, what with one big red-headed woodpeck hammering away in one spot, another a couple of hundred feet away and 2 smaller ones pecking away here and there. Never saw so many of the things in one place at one time. Boss came in; I have another week or 10 days in that job. More work lined up, though.

BUCHANAN'S SIEGE is a quick, fun read; Tom gets into a range war.

BUCHANAN TAKES OVER; Tom's young friends are in trouble with con artists; and Apaches, as usual, Tom wins the day. As you can tell, I have gotten hooked on reading these again.

BLOODY VALENTINE by Stephen R. George, 1993, dedicated to a sexy redheaded lady. A convoluted psychological tale of horror, death of a number of folks, love found and lost and found again and extrasensory , paranormal experiences. Fun read

May 10. Yesterday brought the first mosquitos of the year as well as the end of my harvesting job. Tomorrow or later today I have to go buy a new saw and hope I get enough silviculture work to pay for it.

Isn't this the most boring zine ever?

This is BITS OF MY BORING LIFE #1. I will get a few copies made; send one off to Winnipeg where it is even hotter than it is here and Steve will put it on the Internet where anyone who wishes can read it. Provided they can find it. He says there is a home page, whatever that is, and copies of this zine thing, at [www.glort.com/leighton/](http://www.glort.com/leighton/). One friend from the U.S. said he, or AOL, couldn't find it. Hell, I'll send him a paper copy. Also on [www.efanzines.com/](http://www.efanzines.com/)

THE MAIL CARRIER BROUGHT IT has been abandoned and then resurrected. Some mail sent to me seems to be vanishing. Putting the first issue on the internet seems to have been the kiss of death for interesting mail coming my way. But I resurrected it. Going to run #2 to 6 pages if it takes 2 years. I might even do some for real reviews in the thing if I get anything interesting in the mail that I wouldn't get anyway. People who want paper copies can get them by sending me something interesting. If no one wants to read it, well I don't much care, to be honest.

Rodney Leighton, 11 Branch Road, R.R.#3 Tatamagouche, N.S., BOK 1V0