

Photo taken at Mike's 50th birthday at his 508 Windermere Ave. home.



SPEAKING THROUGH HIS HAT

*An Interview With Mike Glicksohn,
Part One: "Pubbing the Ish"*

Q) *It might be best to start with basics. What were the first fanzines you saw? What effect did they have on you and your decision later to publish our own?*

I discovered science fiction fandom when I went to my first convention, *Tricon*, the worldcon in Cleveland in 1966. (I'd read about it in *Famous Monsters* so Forry is to blame.) I picked up two fanzines from a freebie table. One was by John Boardman, a New York fan. The other may have been *Kallikanzaros* possibly also by a New York fan. I remember nothing about what they looked like or what was in them (although it's a good bet the Boardman fanzine was mostly commentary on American politics.) But I was blown away by the concept that you could actually produce a publication concerning your interest in/love of an activity you were involved in. And to be arrogant, I also thought, "I could be better than this." And so the seed was sown.

Q) *Was there a particular model for Energumen, or features from other fanzines that you wished to imitate?*

Not really. The genzine I'd been mostly involved with at that time was Seattle's *Cry of the Nameless* and undoubtedly it influenced me but I wasn't trying to imitate it. I just wanted to do a fanzine that had good writing, good artwork and good production values. And my friend later Bill Bowers *Outworlds* was certainly a part of the mix but at this point

in time I don't know exactly how we interacted. Probably *Outworlds* appeared just before *Energumen* and thus influenced me but we were both just trying to produce Damned Good Fanzines (along with Linda's *Granfalloon* which was the third leg of our tripod back then.)

Q) *How did your aims for Energumen evolve over the 15 original issues? By the end of the run in 1973, were you satisfied you had accomplished your original or modified ends? Was there anyone who you think more successful at what you were trying to do with Energumen?*

My aims remained the same: to produce a fanzine that had great writing, great artwork and looked wonderful. Why else would you publish a genzine? By 1973 I thought I'd proved I could achieve those goals and the sheer amount of work involved seemed too much once I'd proved I could do it. Bill Bowers outdid everything I did and the fact that he never won a Hugo for the amazing work he did on *Outworlds* is a travesty. *Energumen* won a Hugo in 1973 but it was the second best fanzine of the early 1970s. (But I won't return the rocket.)

Q) *Do you have a favourite issue? A favourite individual contribution that gave you the most delight to publish?*

My favourite issue is undoubtedly #16. Started while Susan Wood was still alive, published after her death and eight years after the previous "last" issue it was the largest issue I'd done and contained many of the best fanwriters and fan artists of the time. I do not think there are many individual fanzines that can stand up against it in terms of the writing, the artwork and the appearance.

I was proud to use the contributions of creators such as Jack Gaughan, Dean Koontz, Tim Kirk, Alicia Austin, Andy Offutt, Bill Rotsler, Joe Haldeman and so many more. It is very difficult to select a favourite contribution. But George Barr's cover for #15 (which he graciously coloured and donated to me) which has been on my wall for the last 23 years is probably right up there.

Q) *Was there ever an editorial decision you later regretted? (For instance, "I wish I'd never published that loc and started that debate!")*

Actually, no. Some of the locs I used started ongoing issues but I was happy to publish them. The debates were worth pursuing.

Q) *What eventually led to your decision to end Energumen with issue 15?*

Probably physical fatigue. I thought I'd shown what I could do as a fanzine publisher and felt no need to keep on doing it. Fifteen issues in three years? That's (not) too many, Meyer. The labour in producing 300 copies of a very large fanzine on my own simply was more than I was up to.

Q) *And why did you decide to begin publishing Xenium, or at least to expand on its original Apa 45 dimensions?*

Because I loved fanzines and I loved producing them! A much smaller fanzine with a much smaller print run allowed me to continue to know the joy of holding that first collated and stapled issue in my hands. Every fanzine editor knows that thrill!

Q) *In what ways were 'Nerg and Xenium different? How did your approach to editing them differ, and why?*

Xenium was much smaller than *Energumen* and was closer to a personalzine without actually being one (every issue had other contributors.) I edited them in the same way: great writing, great art (even if recycled) and superb production values. I still believe it worked.

Q) *As well as these two zines, you also published a number of one-shots - And Lo, God Made Rotsler for Duff, Resounding Haldeman Stories, and The Hat Goes Home. Was there a favourite?*

I love all three of these zines. Derek Carter was a friend/contributor/roommate/artistic genius. His spontaneous creation of cartoons to support Rotsler's **DUFF** campaign is probably the single most impressive artistic endeavour I have ever witnessed. Joe Haldeman is one of my best friends and was Best Man at my wedding. Producing a fanzine to honour his birthday with contributions by Kelly Freas, Ben Bova, Jay Haldeman, Gordie Dickson, Phyllis Eisenstein, Bill Rotsler, Jack Gaughan, Jack Dann and so many others was a highlight of my publishing career. This is undoubtedly one of the finest fanzines ever produced but with a print run of only 26 few will ever see it.¹ So I'd probably vote for *The Hat Goes Home*, my "report" on being Fan Guest of honour at the 1975 Worldcon in Australia. I wrote it all, I filled it with pasted in souvenirs from the antipodes, nobody had done it before or has done it since and damn it looks good!

Q) *Then eventually there were no more Xeniums, nor any more one-shots. What brought about the transformation of Mike the Publishing Giant to Mike the heir apparent to Harry Warner Jr.?*

Got tired of the work involved in doing fanzines and I'd already been Harry's heir anyway. Writing locs was a much easier way of keeping a profile in fanzine fandom. And I'd long established that I was good at it. I admire those who want to establish that they can "do it" as far as fanzine production is concerned and then keep doing it but I wasn't one of them. Letterhacking was better suited to my mood at the time.

Q) *Care to draw any comparisons between your time as fandom's Number Two letterhack, and the story "Dissenting" that you wrote some years earlier? What's the story behind that anyway? Did you ever imagine you were being prophetic?*

¹ I had proposed adding *Resounding Haldeman Stories* to the material pressed on the *Strange Voyages* CD, but it was Mike's preference that the exclusivity of the zine be preserved. That I've agreed to his wishes goes without saying, but **with great reluctance!** I suppose a more complete edition of this collection of Mike's publications will have to wait until all the principles are dead... Yours Truly included

Obviously the story was based on my days as a letterhack and the on-going arguments about the state of SF at the time. I wrote it as a joke and was pleased if puzzled that it got published. Were it not for the fact that Ted White knew me I'm sure the story would never have seen print.

Q) *You were the Fan Guest of Honour at a number of conventions, including the World Science Fiction con in Australia in 1975. You must have many fond memories, and probably funny stories about each. Do you have any advice for then inexperienced FGoH? Any for concons considering their choice of potential FGoH? FGoH's*

I've been a FGoH many times. Each invitation was unexpected and a delight. If/when you are invited, **ACCEPT!** It's a wonderful experience and you must have done enough to deserve the invitation in the first place. To concons I'd say, if you don't have someone who really knows fandom, look for outside help. There are quite a few fans who deserve to be FGoHs but only people with a long-term understanding of fandom know who they are.

Q) *In recent years, what zines have you stayed in touch with, and especially enjoy reading? Do you think they match the high standards of the zines you read while publishing Energumen? If better, in what way?*

When I gafiated in 1993 the only fanzines I received for quite some time were *NASFA Shuttle* and *File 770*, both *newszines*. I now get a few other fanzines erratically. It isn't fair to compare such fanzines to what *Energumen* was in the early 1970s. But to the best of my knowledge, nobody is producing a fanzine like *Energumen*, *Outworlds* or *Granfalloon* at this time.

Q) *What do you make of newer technologies available to the contemporary faned? Do they present new possibilities or are word processing, PDF files, and CD Rom only a more convenient means to the same end? Do you think fanzine fans as a whole have taken full advantage of what's possible? If not, why haven't they?*

Okay, let me acknowledge that I'm a Luddite. I'm antiquated enough to believe that a fanzine needs to be printed on paper (not necessarily quilltone but that's pretty damned good if you can find it) so you can hold it in your hands, reread it when you want to and even smell it. Once or twice people have e-mailed me fanzines and I've looked at them and they seem to be pretty and I can't accept them as fanzines. My problem. So I can't talk about the current state of electronic fanzines because I just can't accept that particular form of publication. I acknowledge that current technology allows a gifted faned to produce something that would outdo anything that was ever done on paper but to me it just isn't a fanzine. So sue me.

Q) *What of the general state of fanzine fandom today? Is it just getting older and greyer, or is it spry for its age? If you were the Mike Glicksohn of 1973 today, do you think you would have been swept up by fanzine fandom as it is now? What do you think might be the future of fanzine*

fandom, as we know it, if it has one? And what will happen to it, or what will it become if it hasn't? Does it matter?

As much as I know of what is currently happening I'd have to say that fanzine fandom will end up on the Internet. This will lose old pharts like me but engage a newer generation of fanzine fans. Maybe a Harry Warner or a Mike Glicksohn will emerge to become *CyberLoccer*. A few paper fanzines will survive for a while but I don't foresee them lasting longer than I do which isn't going to be a long time.

The Mike Glicksohn of 1973 would never have been aware of the fanzine fandom of today and would never have become involved. Were I twenty years old now I'd undoubtedly be spending much of my time on-line. Would I discover fandom that way? I truly don't know. It took a remarkable series of coincidences for me to discover fandom in the real world in 1966. I think that despite the vastly increased interest in science fiction in the general public since 1966, fanzine fandom is probably going the way of the dodo. I hope I'm wrong. I entered a world of people who loved to read, loved to write and loved to demonstrate their ability to do both. If that world exists today, I'm unaware of it.

So I'm guessing that sooner rather than later, science fiction fanzines will disappear. And it won't make a damned bit of difference because fanzines have never been important except to those of us who produce them, contribute to them or love them.

Q) *Has the Hugo become irrelevant to fanzine fandom, or vice versa?*

The Hugo was never really relevant to fanzine fandom because so few fanzine fans could/did vote. But I'm glad I have one.

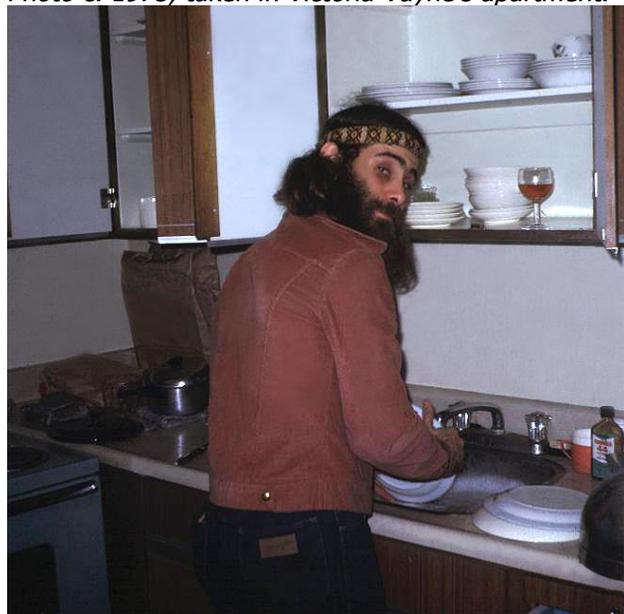
Q) *Do you have any plans to publish your own fanzine again in the future, now that Retirement is a reality? Would new technology play a role? Would you likely have new editorial ambitions and goals to pursue? Would the title have to start with an "X" or did we bind the Energumens too soon?*

Finally an easy question! No. Yes. No. No.

Q) *If you had to do it all over again, would you have considered some other style of hat? This is a metaphysical question, you realize, not an idle ploy to end an interview.*

You know, I love that hat and I still have that hat and occasionally I still wear that hat and there are fans who only know who I am when they see that hat. So I guess I'm happy I found that hat (don't ask me where) and wore that hat (Joni Stopa made the band because the original band was rather shabby) and bought the real Aussie military badge to replace the cheap plastic replica at the 1975 Worldcon auction for *DUFF* and while I now mostly wear a Greek fisherman hat I'll always love my Aussie bush hat. I got to be a Worldcon Fan Guest of Honour so maybe you are what you wear

Photo c. 1975, taken in Victoria Vayne's apartment.



Part Two: "Getting Personal"

Q One rarely knows much about another fan's background. Would you care to fill us in about your family's origin in England, your early memories of the UK? I suppose it's inevitable that your roots have had some influence on your later attraction to British fandom, but I have to ask.

My parents were both born in England. My grandparents came from Poland, Ireland and England. I was 11 when my Dad decided his family would have a better life somewhere other than England. New Zealand turned him down (they only wanted farmers and builders at the time) but Canada accepted him. I'm rather glad it worked out that way as I don't really like lamb. And, yes, my visits to relatives back in England allowed me to make contact with British fandom at the time and led to me being one of only three North American fans who were actively involved with British fanzines back then.

Q) When did you arrive in Canada, and where did you first settle in? What interesting things do you remember about moving to a different country, if anything?

My Dad preceded us by about three months. My brother, my mother and I arrived in the summer of 1957. Later this year I'll celebrate my 50th anniversary here. Dad had a basement apartment in the Yonge-Sheppard area in Willowdale.² I spent my first six plus years within a couple of blocks of that intersection.

I remember being placed in Grade 5 then quickly being moved to Grade 7 because at the time the British educational system was well in advance of the Canadian system. I remember trying to pretend I knew about baseball and hockey so I could "fit in" with my

² The Willowdale Connection. The premise -- that all great Toronto fanzine fans have at one time or another lived in Willowdale (in north Toronto) -- is unproven of course, but compelling. Not only Mike and I have lived in Willowdale, but so have Victoria Vayne, Boyd Raeburn, Ron Kidder, Hope Leibowitz, Bob Webber, and even Robert J. Sawyer.

classmates. I remember trying to change my cricket swing into a baseball swing (and being pretty good at it, actually.) I remember being told to take extra math rather than vocal music because I was so bad at singing I was putting those around me off. I remember my brother and I walking north on a largely undeveloped Yonge Street picking up discarded pop bottles at construction sites so we could clean them up and return them for 2 cents each. I remember my first paper route, my job delivering things on my bike for the local drug store and hating biking three or four miles up Yonge without getting a tip. I remember three new schools and many new friends and being one of the top students in my year. I remember supporting the *Chicago Black Hawks* because in my first week of school I overheard someone say he thought they'd have a good year and I certainly remember that they never did have that year. I'm glad I came here!

Q) *How about university education? Where and what? When did you decide to attend Teacher's College, and what was your reason for becoming a math teacher in particular?*

I went to the *University of Toronto* and took the standard course of Math, Physics, Chemistry starting in 1964. At the time, there were no options: everyone took the prescribed courses. I loved Math, was pretty good at Chemistry and never understood physics but was bright enough to get through it anyway. I tried a year of graduate work, passed all my courses but this was when my mother died (she hadn't even made it to fifty) which pretty well derailed me. I dropped out, hitchhiked to California and spent some time there, and came back to attend *Teachers' College*. I'd always loved and excelled at mathematics and had always had a teaching job in the back of my mind if other avenues didn't pan out. My year learning to be a teacher showed me I was good in this role and the past thirty-five years haven't shown otherwise. I'm happy to be retired but I'll never regret the decision I made to become a teacher of mathematics.

Q) *Where you a life-long reader of science fiction, or if not, how do you remember starting?*

I first encountered science fiction in the English comic books of the 1950s (both as comic strips and prose tales) and via the *BBC* radio broadcasts of shows like "*Journey into Space*" and (not exactly SF but wonderful nonetheless) "*The Goon Show*". When I reached Canada I immediately joined the local library and started reading Heinlein, Asimov, Bradbury, Tenn et al. From age 11 to now, I've been hooked.

Q) *How and when did you discover fandom? And why start a club?*

I read about the 1966 Worldcon (the *Tricon* in Cleveland) in *Famous Monsters of Filmland*. Until then, I had no idea there was such a thing as organized science fiction fandom. I drove my motorbike to Cleveland, met some people I know to this day, saw the first ever broadcast of a *Star Trek* episode, discovered fanzines and generally had such a great time that I decided Toronto needed to have an organized fan group. At the time my Dad was working at the *U of T* computer department and I was a student at *U of T*. Dad let me print up a bunch of computer cards announcing the formation of a club devoted to science fiction. At the same time, some Canadians who had been in Cleveland got together with the help of Captain George Henderson (a comic and s SF nostalgia dealer) and

established the first official Canadian SF club. It all took off from there, leading to three *Toronto Fan Fairs* and the *1973 Torcon II* worldcon.

Q) How did it come about that after being one of the founders of the Ontario Science Fiction Club, you were neither the editor of any of the OSFiC publications, nor after a certain point a very active contributor? Given Energumen and major letter hacking, it seems a bit odd in retrospect. Did you regularly attend meetings? After Torcon you seemed to have a lot less interest in OSFiC affairs, was it the changing membership or other reasons?

I didn't edit any OSFiC fanzines because there were others who wanted to do so, who were capable of doing so, and I was busy with my other commitments to fandom. It's hard to remember this far removed but I think an investigation would show I was one of the more active participants in early OSFiC fanzines edited by Peter Gill. Not perhaps in the newszines you, Victoria and others did a wonderful job of later, (but newszines traditionally don't get the response that genzines do.)

I went to some meetings back then but my focus had switched to international fandom rather than local fandom and there were only so many fannish hours in the day. I was working full-time, busy in fanzine fandom in the US, England and Australia, and not exactly thrilled by the way OSFiC was going (there were feuds and unpleasanties as I recall.) But I'll always be glad that John, Peter, Maureen and I created the club in the first place.

Q) Back in the days you wore black leather, and before the beard, you rode a motorcycle. You still do, don't you? But how is it you never got a licence to drive a car? It does seem a little peculiar.

I haven't had a motorbike for about 13 years. If I won the lottery, I'd buy another one the next day. I loved being on a bike but I never wanted to drive a car. I can (and do) drive a car when there's a licensed driver next to me but getting a licence never seemed worth the effort. And by the way, most of fandom has never seen me without some sort of beard.

Q) Tell us a little about meeting Susan Wood and your marriage. Was it in Ottawa or Toronto? How did you decide to move to Toronto and into the 32 Maynard Ave. apartment?³

In the late 1960s there was a connection between Toronto and Ottawa fandom (more or less led by Richard Labonte.) We arranged for a group of us to get together and drive down to a *Boskone* (I think.) On that trip, I first met Susan Wood who later wrote something along the lines of "meeting Isaac Asimov was fun but I was more impressed with meeting Mike Glicksohn." We married in 1970, in Ottawa, in an outdoor ceremony on the campus of the university. We moved to Toronto (first year in an apartment on

³ Apt. 205 just in case you were planning to time-travel.

Saint George) because I was going to *Teachers' College* (a few blocks from our apartment) and Susan was working on her PhD which she could do anywhere.

Q) *It's a delicate question, but assuming it's anyone's business will you say anything about your later separation from Susan?*

We separated in late 1973 after her inability to find a job (I recall one day when the mail brought 32 rejection letters) caused too much stress between us. She went west, I stayed here. And in 1980 we planned the 16th issue of *Energumen* which I edited and published after her untimely death, and which I still believe is one of the best fanzines ever published.

Q) *Your enthusiasm for poker is well known, but what other interests and past-times have you?*

Of course, I love to read. I have literally hundred of bought-but-unread books, which I am now working slowly through in my first months of retirement. And I'm still buying more books than I'm reading! I had thought to get back into writing letters to fanzines but losing a kidney because of cancer a year ago and being told that there was something wrong with my bladder (maybe cancer, maybe not) has put that idea on the back burner for a while. I love puzzles (addicted to *SuDoKu*) and TV and DVDs and I cook for Susan a couple of times a week. Each day seems filled with Good Stuff for me and I don't expect that to change in the foreseeable future.

Q) *It may surprise no few to know that someone so fannish is also a serious collector of books. Who are your favourite authors? Are you a purist about first editions, do you collect in languages other than English, have you a fetish for personal inscriptions, or possess other anti-social, bibliophilic drives?*

I don't collect non-English versions of books but I certainly have spent thousands of dollars buying signed-limited first editions over the last three decades. My main man is Stephen King and I have almost everything he has written in first editions. If I can get a book inscribed to me, I'll do so. If I find a book inscribed to someone else (unless it is ridiculously cheap) I won't buy it. I have everything Joe Haldeman has published in firsts, most signed, but it helps that he is one of my best friends. And I do occasionally wonder what will happen to all of my books once I'm gone but since I won't be here to worry about it I can only hope Susan finds a good market for what is a pretty damned good collection.

Q) *I think your favourite potation is Scotch, but which labels? What other alcoholic beverages you're especially fond of, between fifths?⁴*

If I can afford it I prefer the single malts from the island of Islay. (Pronounced "eye-la".) This means my all time favourites are *Lagavulin* and *Laphroig*. Since I mostly cannot afford to buy these bottles, I settle for any reasonable single malt with flavour and I

⁴ Those disposed to mailing their Christmas, anniversary, or birthday presents, take note.

alternate that with mostly straight gin. But other than bourbon there is little in the way of straight alcohol I don't enjoy. To the detriment of my remaining brain cells of course.

Q) *In the 80's you remarried to Doris Berçarich. You moved from the 141 High Park Ave. address to your current house on Windermere Ave.⁵ and bought the house together. But after a couple of years you were paying the mortgage yourself. Again I'm only hoping for a diplomatic answer, but did your continuing interest in old cronies and old fannish habits contribute to this divorce? Or was that a non-issue*

Doris and I never married. We cohabitated. I moved from 141 High Park to a basement apartment at 137 High Park then shared Doris's condo on Ormskirk for a short time then (while at the 1983 worldcon in Baltimore) we settled on this house at 508 Windermere. She was never much of an sf fan although she enjoyed the social aspects of fandom and went to many cons with me. Perhaps my greater interest in fannish fandom helped lead to our separation but basically we realized we were not suited for a long-term relationship. Doris was willing to move far more than I was so I bought out her share of #508, paid the mortgage myself for a while, had room-mates for a year or so, and eventually met, fell in love with and married Susan. After several years we paid off the mortgage and have lived happily ever after.

Q) *Whose idea was and what idea lay behind those years of Mikecons at the Windermere place?*

At the start of the 1980s, Mike Harper and I (who have birthdays eight days apart at the end of May) decided that it would be a hell of a lot cheaper to invite our fannish friends to visit us here over their long weekend than to try and visit numerous US cities to see our friends. We invited a bunch of folks to come to Toronto and had a weekend long party at my place on High Park Avenue and Mike's place on Vaughn Road. It was successful enough that we held 26 more such gatherings at various locations, the last 23 being held at least partially here at #508. The pig roasts were only a feature of the last ten celebrations but by Ghod they were great parties!

Q) *Who are your closest friends in fandom in recent days? Have you a circle of close friends, and social activities outside of fandom?*

My closest fannish friends have been that for years/decades. The Haldemans, Mike & Salma Harper/Husain, Al and Shelley Curry, Paul and Cas Skelton, Rick Lieder & Kathe Koja, Josh & Luanne Grosse, Dave & Vicky Locke, Bruce & Karen Schneier (Okay, she's not Schneier so forgive me), Joel Zakem, Frank Johnson, and many more. I do have friends outside of fandom but in all honesty, the people I love the most are fans. And that goes for my immediate family too.

Q) *I know carrying the mortgage on a house yourself forced a drastic cutback on the number of conventions you attend, but which are still "musts" for you? Where can one go and stand a reasonable chance of meeting the Hat?*

⁵ #508. Time travel not necessary until March 4th 2031 A.D.

Nowadays I attend *Confusions* in Michigan, *Midwestcon* in Cincinnati and our own *Ad Astra* depending on who is going to be there. I have just returned from *Confusion #33* where I was honoured with a lovely plaque for being the only person to have attended all 33 *Confusions* as well as the one-day pre-cursor called the *Ann Arbor Relaxacon*. I wore the old Aussie bush hat for the panel honouring my perfect attendance record and I'll be at all *Confusions* until I die.

Q) *What can you tell us of your present wife, Susan? Has she taken an interest in fandom or does she merely tolerate it as an eccentricity?*

Susan loves the social aspects of fandom and has formed strong bonds with many of the people I have known for years. She reads some fantasy and sf and has just started the first volume of my friend George Martin's fantasy magnum opus which has just been bought by *HBO*. I think I'll wait until the next volumes are produced and then read them all in sequence. Assuming I live that long, of course. Still, Susan's main interests remain poetry, painting and mainstream literature.

Q) *Inevitably I have to ask about your brush with cancer. Luck, or Transcendental Powers were with you. Are you then free of worry for the future, or relatively free? Did cancer force sobering thoughts on you beyond what one might expect?*

You don't get told you have cancer without thinking some dire thoughts. But while I was never in denial about this, I always thought I'd be able to get through it. So far, I've been right about that. Currently I'm "relatively free" of worry: my most recent test -- required because of suspicion the cancer had spread to my bladder -- came back negative for cancer cells in my urine which was the good news. The bad news was that there was "something abnormal" in the bladder. I have another test in mid-February 2007 which may shed light on the matter. Until I get a definite answer (one way or the other) there's definitely a Sword of Damocles feeling to my life.

Q) *I remember many years ago you said, chillingly, that you wanted to drink to death before you were forty. Forty has come and gone and so has fifty. Assuming you aren't disappointed, what changed?*

And now so has sixty. Those comments were all post-teenage angst. I didn't have a girlfriend, I didn't have a career, there wasn't much in my life I felt good about. Then I met Susan Wood, got married, decided to try teaching and even though I kept on drinking far more than was good for me, life had become worthwhile. And despite the various ups and downs in the last seven lustrums, it has always remained so. There is no longevity in my immediate family so I don't know how many years I have left but I intend to enjoy each and every day I'm given.

Q) *Would you say that you are in any way more content or less content with your present life? Has fandom left a small void anywhere that isn't being filled? Then again, might you be counting down the days to unleash the Once and Future Boy Wonder of Fandom?*

I am extremely content with my current life, including my recent retirement after 35 years of teaching high school mathematics. I have a wonderful wife, we own the house, there are a sufficient number of dollars in the bank to maintain the lifestyle we're accustomed to, we have so many truly wonderful friends so what's not to love?

I did intend to restart my activities as a letterhack once I retired but the cancer thing put that on hold. (It seemed pointless to try and establish myself as The Old Man Wonder of Canadian Fandom if I couldn't maintain it for a few years at least.) When I get a clean bill of health, though, I'll try and see if I can still write a mean loc. In the meantime, Lloyd Penney can rest easy for a while!

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