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"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

— Albert Einstein



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

What's not to love?

"I love cats with my whole heart and always have," admits Laura. "What's not to love? Fluffy or sleek, big or small — I love them all. Each one is a work of art: they come in an array of beautiful colors and each is uniquely marked. Cats' eyes sparkle like marbles with bright lights behind them. When you look into their eyes, you can feel their love and intelligence, and it is easy to read what is on their minds by looking into them. Their little puffy cheeks are adorable and their whiskers fall like a graceful waterfall framing their face. Their noses are heart shaped and hearing their purr-ecious little voices lifts my spirits. My cat, Lenny, 'murdles' which is 'our' word for their meow-talking.

I admire and respect that cats do as they darn well please — at any given moment. My two rescued humane society cats, Sophia and Leonard, are proof of this!

They know when I'm sad and help comfort me by laying their soft cuddly bodies on me and purr. When I am ill they are attentive little nurses. Sophia lays beside me, and when she leaves, for a break, Leonard takes her place.

It is fun watching my cats roar around the house playing tag. At night, Sophia zips through the rooms chasing invisible bugs. After she settles down, I straighten out all the rugs she sCATtered.

Lenny's hobby is purr-posley shoving his toys under the fridge or FUR-urniture. He then reaches back under it trying to 'capture' his prey. One day, I dragged a wire hanger underneath a cabinet and reclaimed 10 toys! Now for the interesting part! Leonard taught Sophia how to 'play the game'. I recently saw her shoving her toys under the fridge!

Sophia insists on Leonard taking first place at the food bowls before she eats. And if my cats were a dessert, Leonard would be a pound cake: he is heavy, solid and sweet. Sophia would be a meringue cookie: she is light, fluffy and pretty. When you go by weight alone, it is hard to believe they are siblings.

When I mimic a New York accent and say, 'Sophia Rose! Show Momma your swisha!'

she swishes her fluffy tail from side to side. The more I say it, the harder she swishes her swisher.

Leonard is an excellent catcher. Before I toss his toy I count out, 'one...two... THREE!', and he catches it between his front paws. Every - Single - Time.

Sophia has torn my bed's box spring netting to pieces and made herself a fun cave. This is 'our' second bed that she has 're-designed'. I told her she was naughty for ripping our new bed. She told me I was naughty for taking away the 'good' bed and making her start all over again. The three of us sleep together. Leonard lays on my left side, I put my arm around him, and he lifts his leg, wrapping it gently around my arm.

The first week I adopted my kittens, Leonard jumped into the shower with me. He seemed interested for a couple of minutes and then he jumped out. He never did it again. I guess he decided his tongue does a better job of keeping him clean. It washes and dries at the same time!"

TIPS

"When Leonard and Sophia were kittens," said Laura, "I'd arrive home and discover all kinds of unexpected things. Their wet-kitchen-sponge 'toy' would be either on the living room rug or on the bed. Usually on the bed, of course!"

Pictures that were sitting on the china cabinet would be on the floor. The timer on the stove would be buzzing (Lord knows for how long!), so to this day I keep the dials off the stove when not in use, because if they can turn one dial they could turn them all!

When I put the window blinds up, I always twist tie the strings up high so the cats' claws or necks won't get caught in them. The other night, when I lowered the blinds, Sophia caught a claw in the blind and couldn't get out of it without my help. There's a good reason I do what I do.

For the last two years, while volunteering for our humane society to raise money, for fun, I wore a Halloween Cat Woman costume. I sold \$2 raffle tickets and brought in \$2000!"



Courtesy Photo

"Who needs an entertainment center when you have cats!" laughs Laura as she refers to her mischievous-rescued twins, Sophia and Leonard.

Note:

Laura is the woman who recognized that the 'new' cat in her yard was lost. The article on Prince's mysterious appearance and return to his owner was published in the Sentinel's December miracle pet series. How did Prince make a three and a half hour trip through the Rocky Mountains, down the Trans-Canada Highway, 220 miles to Vancouver B.C., pay \$69 for a Ferry ticket to Vancouver Island, travel another 40 miles to Duncan, and walk two miles from the highway? While his owners thought he was in their back yard? It remains a mystery to everyone, including the shelter worker who said, "I've worked here for 20 years and never heard of anything like this!"

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OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

him across the head with his knife. Fitzhugh, now armed only with the empty derringer, rushed another partygoer named Tom Thompson — which turned out to be a huge mistake, because Thompson clearly knew his way around a six-shooter better than anyone else in the room.

Two gunshots later, Fitzhugh was done for the night — not dead, but badly wounded. Forbes and Hannon, seeing this, attacked Thompson and were also shot down — both hit in the stomach. Crow, suddenly realizing he was the only survivor of the little war party, gave full

rein to the better part of valor and fled into the night.

Over the next week or two, much to the surprise of nearly everyone, nearly all the injured parties rallied and recovered. Only Bob Forbes, whose spine had been broken by Thompson's revolver ball, and Barringer, shot through the heart by Fitzhugh, died.

Fitzhugh was soon arrested and put on trial for murder along with Hannan; Crow, who had made a dreadful mess of fiddle player Clayton, couldn't be found. It's not clear why Culver wasn't charged, but chances are good his sucking stab wound

was still too serious for him to make a court appearance.

The "riot," which got extensive newspaper coverage all over Oregon, had brought the lingering resentments in Douglas County to a head, and hundreds of people took an avid interest in the trial. For most of them, it was more than a drunken act of petty criminality; it was a proxy fight between the forces of the North and the South.

When it was all over, the jury found both men guilty. But the judge sentenced them to very light sentences: five years for Fitzhugh, and one for Hannan.

The champions of Unionists

and Southern Democrats alike decried the verdict in editorial pages and coffee houses — the one side complaining about the light sentences, the other about the guilty verdict. But after it was all over, and nobody's "team" had "won," Douglas County residents were finally able to settle down and live with one another — if not at peace, then at least not actively at war.

(Sources: Lalande, Jeff. "Dixie of the Pacific Northwest," Oregon Historical Quarterly, spring 1999; Portland Morning Oregonian, 3 Jan. 1867 and 14 Jan. 1867)

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