

Personal Images from a Secret Life: A Living Obit, Part One

The name, Gene Melander, may be familiar, but many aspects of his life will remain a secret if he doesn't reveal all while still able. Close friends and family should know of these covert details, even though they are not expected to pass judgment—that's someone else's task.



It all began here, in the backyard of 3500 Dupont North, Mpls. Where he lived with his pet rooster, Cockadoodle Swenson.



Later, a street rowdy outside an Army Recruiting Office



Father and son—same back yard, different war.



Then, the love of my life.



Together, sharing the hubble-bubble influence.

Soon, our shared joy, framed by the practice of love, grew substantially.



*Daughters,
Three*



*Granddaughters,
Three*



Followed by a number of years of daily escaping to engage in workaday duties.

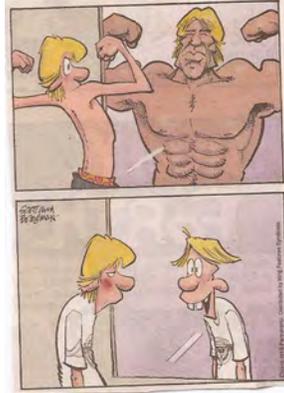


*Ultimately, with professional responsibilities ended,
I no longer thought I needed to think.*

However, I find I still think; therefore, I must still be.

A Living Obit, Part Two: "To Be" in this age is to exist in the world of phantasy :

I became obsessed with what might have been:



Only to encounter ever-present realities.

Offset by many "Wannabe Metaphors"



Hercule Poirot



Rao, of Rao's, NY



Archie Leach aka Cary



The new challenge: Managing daily after-lunch interruptions.



He soon realized that life was, in the large, dominated by weirdness, as if everything and everyone had moved to the far side of normal. He became a weirdness activist and stood tallest in his role as founding father and curator of the American-Society-That-weirdness-Shall-Not-Go Unappreciated (A S T w S N G U), a family based cult, centered on JJ, the Empress of the Weird, and on attempts to make the unfathomable fathomable.

JJ, Empress of the Weird



ASTWSNGU Soulmate, hallowed for her diplomatic work among the unbelievers.

Her Royal presence acknowledged by the Weirdness Salute of wriggling fingers crossing the line of vision and by enthusiastic howls, brays, and snorts. Her cheer of Grace captured by "Alegaroo, Garoo! Garoo! WaZoo! Allegabah!"

A Living Obit, Part Two: The Land of ASTwSNGU,



on the far side of normal **ASTwSNGU** *blessed by heavenly views.*

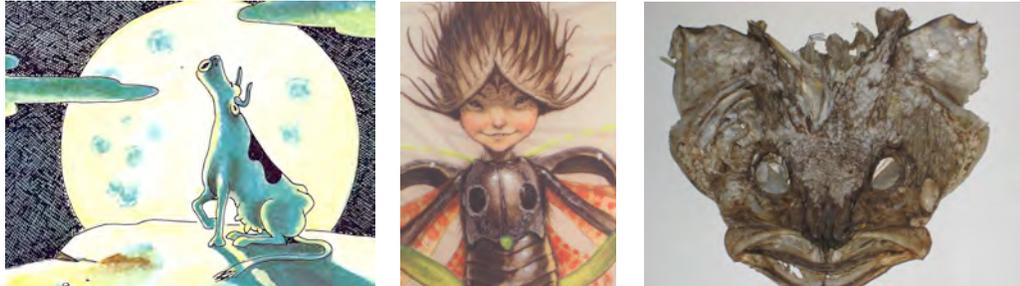
Reflecting the images of weird ironic philosophies forming the core of

ASTwSNGU Axioms to live by:

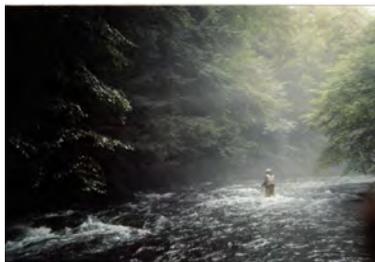
- 1. He, who laughs last, thinks slowest.***
- 2. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.***
- 3. On the other hand...you also have five fingers.***
- 4. Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.***
- 5. I feel like I am diagonally parked in a parallel universe.***
- 6. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted and then used against you.***
- 7. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.***
- 8. Just remember,***
- 9. The 50-50-90 rule: anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90 percent probability you'll get it wrong.***
- 10. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.***
- 11. All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.***
- 12. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.***
- 13. A fine is a tax for doing wrong; a tax is a fine for doing well.***
- 14. Everybody lies, but it doesn't matter since nobody listens.***
- 15. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.***
- 16. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.***
- 17. OK, so what's the speed of dark?***

18. *Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.*
19. *I intend to live forever.... so far, so good.*
20. *What happens if you get scared half to death twice?*
21. *A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.*

ASTwSNGU: The Land of Strange Spirits



Of course, other places had their calling;



Little Woman Creek



Austrian Alps



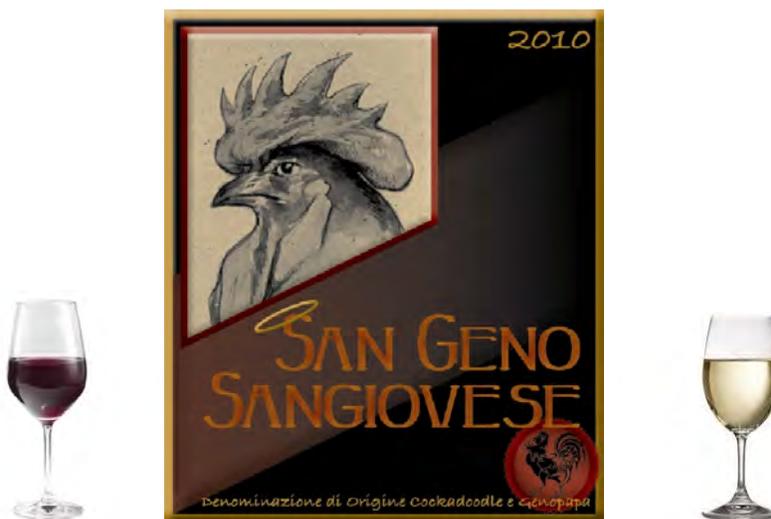
Nortre Dame

But enough of what has been!



Please join me in toasting what has yet to be:

Alegaroo! Garoo! Garoo! Wazoo! Alegabah!



To Cockadoodle Swenson, may he prevail until the inevitable.