

Crickets, DDT And A Long Lost Dog

BY TOBIN BARNES

Flies were one thing. Yup, you may have read that we killed a lot of flies in a counter-intuitive attempt to improve our motel's business when I was a kid.

Of course, it didn't do a darned bit of good, but there you go. This was just another part of what I've been talking about.

And, heck, those flies were nothing compared to the crickets.

That's right. One summer, we had a cricket infestation of Biblical proportions. Moses couldn't have called down a greater plague...and we weren't Egyptians—as far as I know—deserving of the wrath of god.

(On the other hand, some powerful fly god might have been wreaking vengeance on us for the thousands of fly murders we'd blithely perpetrated.)

The stars must have been in perfect cricket alignment and all the necessities of breakneck cricket reproduction in place, because our motel turned into a Yagzur's Farm for the mother of all cricket Woodstocks.

It was crickets till hell wouldn't have them.

Hyperbole is not nearly adequate enough to describe the multitudes of crickets hopping and bopping around, desperately trying to get out of the heat and into our air-conditioned rooms cozied up next to the tourists.

Thank goodness, my old man never even considered the use of swatters like with the flies ("Go out and kill 50 crickets"). Even he knew that I couldn't be the solution to a problem this overwhelming. It was much too vast for a kid, a man, and that kind of plan.

Instead, he turned immediately to DDT.

Nope, Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" was not on my old man's bookshelf. Heck, he didn't even have a bookshelf.

Environmental awareness was not yet part of the scene here in the early 60s, so he hadn't yet heard of the eco-damage that DDT caused. Few had. And even if he had heard,



Barnes

he might not have cared as long as DDT was still on the market and legally usable.

The crickets were all-consuming. They had to go.

So my old man sprinkled that white DDT dust everywhere he thought it might be useful. To be most effective, he tried to think like a cricket to divine where he should best spread the poison.

And the cricket portion of his mind told him to put it just about everywhere. After all, any place could be housing a cricket convention, and there was to be no cricket fun here, there or anywhere.

As unsightly as it turned out to be, he thought he'd bar cricket entrance by putting a line of DDT in front of each motel room door. And because crickets could sometimes be seen boiling out of any random crack or hole, he poured it down every sidewalk crack and pavement hole he could find.

We're talking a ton of cracks and holes.

I sometimes wonder whether my life might end up being years shorter because of all the DDT my old man spread around.

No doubt, the crickets lives were shorter.

And so was the neighborhood dog's.

Before the DDT was used, this dog came around lapping up dead and dying crickets right off the pavement—not appetizing for us but maybe like popcorn for him.

After the DDT was applied, the dog continued to dine—now "cricket au poude," perhaps—until we noticed and tried to shoo him off.

Too late. We never saw that dog again.

Tobin Barnes, a high school English teacher, gets his skewed viewpoints of life from staring too much at Crow Peak, which looms above his home a few miles outside Spearfish.

Remember The Sunscreen For Back To School

Summer may be coming to an end, but that doesn't mean you're free to forget about sun protection. When shopping for back-to-school supplies, make sure to stop by the sunscreen aisle. Children in elementary school usually have outdoor recess between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., when the sun is especially intense. Just one severe sunburn in childhood doubles the chances of developing melanoma later in life. So while preparing for school, make sure to remind your children about the importance of applying sunscreen and seeking the shade when outdoors.

"The sun's ultraviolet rays don't go away when the summer is over," said Perry Robins, MD, president of The Skin Cancer Foundation. "Children spend a great deal of time outdoors throughout the school year—walking to and from school, and during recess, after-school sports and field trips. We encourage children to develop a year-round sun protection regimen to lower their risk of developing skin cancer later in life."

Although sunscreen is an essential part of a complete sun protection program, you may need to check with administrators before sending your children to school with a bottle. Many schools prohibit students from bringing in sunscreen and some require a doctor's prescription. Others not only allow sunscreen but may provide it for student use.

No matter what the rules are at

school, it is important to remember that sun safety begins at home. The Skin Cancer Foundation offers these tips:

- Dress children in sun-protective clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses that block 99 percent or more of ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- Apply broad-spectrum, SPF 15+ sunscreen to exposed skin every morning.
- If permitted by your school, teach children to reapply sunscreen before going outdoors for physical education, recess or after-school sports. For extra outdoor protection, kids should use an SPF 30+ sunscreen.
- Teach kids to look for shaded areas in which to play.
- Protect yourself and lead by example.

Children should enjoy the outdoors safely. Learn how to protect them, and teach them to protect themselves at www.SkinCancer.org.

YANKTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Anticipation Of Fall Activities

BY KATHY JACOBS

Director, Yankton Community Library

We are making plans for fall and winter activities at the library. The final touches are being made to our new Baby and Me lapsit program designed for children ages 0-12 months and their parent or caregiver. These are twenty minute sessions that will take the adults and children through short stories, rhymes, and music in a small group setting. It is a bonding time for baby and caregiver and is an introduction to the library, literature and music. Watch for details on days and times.

Registration for preschool story time has opened. We are once again offering three story times each week, Monday at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday at 10:15 a.m. All preschool children and their care providers are welcome.

Our first after school movies will be September 9 and 23, at 3:45 p.m. Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Furry Vengeance are our first two picks.

We will survey middle school students and their parents once school begins to see what programs and activities might interest the students who come here regularly after school. We will try to offer a variety of programs and activities. It is our hope

that the teens and 'twens will actually help plan the programs and promote them to others their age.

Teens will want to check out the eight new video rockers in their area that were donated by Friends of the Library. We thank the Friends for their generosity and continued support of the library's programs and activities.

We have Brown Bags set for the remainder of the year. On September 8, a representative from Barnes & Noble will present Nook 101, an introductory session to show participants what a Nook can do. On October 13, we'll host a presentation on iPads and Kindles. This will also be an introductory session to show you the unique features of each device. We'll host Jeremy Skrenes from Wireless World on November 10. He'll present holiday tech gift ideas in multiple price ranges. On December 8, Becky Shank from Harold's Photo will give a presentation on digital cameras, explaining the features of various types of cameras for gift giving and personal use.

Our South Dakota Humanities Council reads are on the calendar. On October 14, Jamie Sullivan will lead the discussion of the 2010 One Book South Dakota selection What is the What by Dave Eggers. The

books have arrived and can be checked out any time.

On October 26, we will join libraries across the nation in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the publishing of Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird. Jamie Sullivan will lead our discussion and Rich Lofthus will share the historical background of the novel. On November 2, the movie will be shown followed by a brief discussion. The books should arrive by October 1.

Readers Anonymous will discuss Loving Frank by Nancy Horan on September 14. This club, which is always open to new members, meets the second Tuesday of each month, at the library, at 1 p.m.

The evening book club meets the third Tuesday of each month, 5:30 p.m., at the library. On September 21, they will discuss Leif Enger's Peace Like A River.

Generous patrons donated 94 containers of cereal during our Food for Fines week. We will collect shampoo and toothpaste September 11-19, with all donations going to the Contact Center.

You will notice a new look to our online card catalog. While this may be a bit confusing at first, it is a definite upgrade. To find your information more quickly, click on "Traditional

Catalog" and it will be the look you are familiar with.

In order to provide better customer service, we have initiated a new system with all audio books and movies. Each of these now contains an AV repair slip that you can simply fill out if you find one of the disks or cassettes are not working. We will then make necessary repairs before checking out the item again. This should allow for fewer items checked out that need repairs or cleaning.

Friends of the Library will hold their monthly book sale on September 4, 10-1. As always, they continue to accept donations of gently used books to stock their shelves. The Friends' sale is the first Saturday of each month.

The library will be closed on Monday, September 6, to celebrate Labor Day. Our fall and winter hours, which begin on September 7, are the following:

• Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
• Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• Sunday: 1 to 5 p.m.

Did you know that in 2009, 15,455 audio books were checked out from the library.

You can reach the library at 605-668-5275 or e-mail me at [kjacob@sdln.net](mailto:kjacobs@sdln.net). View us online at <http://www.yanktonsd.org> then go to the public library link.

Somethings Fishy In Car Battery's Early Death

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

I purchased a new 2010 VW CC, and the car has 5,000 miles on it. During a long week-end, I left the car unused for four days, and the battery died. There were no lights on or external power drains. On Tuesday I went to the dealer where I purchased the car and was told: "There is nothing wrong with the car—they just do that because there is a lot of power drain due to the computer." I called another VW dealer and was given a similar answer. My question is, How can a car company design a car with a battery that lasts only four days? Shouldn't a car be able to sit for more than four days without the battery dying? Thanks.

Tom: Yes, it should. In fact, VW itself says the car should be good for 30 days without a problem. So I think you have every right to go back to your dealer and ask him to investigate further.

Ray: In our experience, most cars can sit for about two weeks these days before the battery is too weak to start the car.

Tom: Why is that? Well, there are certain electronic components that continue to run even when your car is turned off. There's usually an alarm system, and there's the evaporative emissions system, which needs to cycle



CLICK & CLACK

whether the car is running or not. Normally, there's enough juice in the battery to keep that up for a couple of weeks, unless it's extraordinarily cold outside.

Ray: But there are a couple of things that could shorten that time frame. One is a weak battery. That seems unlikely on a brand-new car, but maybe your battery is defective.

Tom: Or perhaps you were making lots of very short trips leading up to the long week-end, and never really charged up the battery.

Ray: The other possibility is that

something is draining the battery too quickly. The dealer should be able to put an ammeter on the battery with the engine off to see how much current is being drawn off. If it's an excessive amount, then he needs to figure out what's causing it.

Tom: Maybe there's a fault in the alarm system or evaporative emissions system. Maybe there's a courtesy light that's staying on. Maybe a trunk light.

Ray: Or maybe there's a factory defect. I remember that VW did have a problem with new cars being delivered to dealers with batteries that had drained during shipping. That problem supposedly got fixed, but it's something the dealer could look into for you.

Tom: If you can't figure it out, and this continues to be a problem, your last-ditch solution would be a trickle charger that you can leave on the battery when you go away. That'll ensure that the battery stays charged, that you're able to start the car and that you don't lose all the presets on your radio. But that's kind of a Mickey Mouse solution for an expensive new car. So push the dealer a little harder, and tell him what VW said. Good luck, Tim.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com. © 2010, King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Ellingson-Lawson

Jaimie Ellingson and Lars Lawson were married July 10, 2010 at Long Bay in Skagway, AK with William (Duke) Ellingson officiating.

Parents of the couple are William (Duke) and Peg Ellingson of Yankton, SD, and Grant and Val Lawson of Skagway, AK.

Following the ceremony, a brunch was held at Stowaway Restaurant, and an evening reception at Jewel Gardens in Skagway, AK.

The couple resides in Skagway with their twin sons, Malcolm and Kurt.

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The Surgeons and Staff at Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital

Welcome Dr. Christopher A. Hathaway to Yankton and our hospital!

Christopher A. Hathaway, MD, Ph.D graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and completed his residency in Urology at the Medical College of Georgia. He joins Dr. Joseph Boudreau in practice at Yankton Urological Surgery, Prof., L.L.C., 2009 Locust, Yankton, SD.

CALL 605-689-1100 for appointments with Dr. Hathaway



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