

LIFE IN POETRY

Miniaturizing Art With Bonsai

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

I've always been fascinated by miniatures of all kinds, the little glass animals I played with as a boy, electric trains, dollhouses, and I think it's because I can feel that I'm in complete control. Everything is right in its place, and I'm the one who put it there. Here's a poem by Kay Mullen, who lives in Washington, about the art of bonsai.

BONSAI AT THE POTTER'S STALL

Under fluorescent light,
aligned on a bench

and table top, oranges
the size of marbles dangle

from trees with glossy
leaves. White trumpets
bloom in tiny clay pots.

Under a firethorn's twisted
limbs, a three inch monk

holds a cup from which
he appears to drink

the interior life. The potter
prizes his bonsai children

who will never grow up,
never leave home.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2006 by Kay Mullen, and reprinted from her most recent book of poetry, A Long Remembering: Return to Vietnam, FootHills Publishing, 2006, by permission of Kay Mullen and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2011 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

YSD RETIRED TEACHERS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Officers for the Yankton Area Retired Teachers Association for 2011-2012 are (from left) Gene Bormann, President; Pat Michels, Treasurer; Nora Lee, Secretary; and Joan Neubauer, Vice President. Yankton Area Retired Teachers will meet on Thursday, Sept. 1 at JoDean's at 11:30 a.m. All area retired teachers as well as other retired school district personnel are invited to join the organization. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each of the months of September-November and March-May. The September program will feature Dr. Joe Gertsema, Supt. of Yankton Public Schools. For more information please contact Gene Bormann at 605-665-3539.

What's The Real Story With Timing Belt Claim?

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
www.cartalk.com

Dear Tom and Ray:
About a year ago, I had the timing belt replaced on my 2003 Subaru Outback. Then, last week, I had the head gasket replaced at a different shop. When they replaced the head gasket, they looked at my timing belt and said I needed a new one! The reason was because they could not see any writing on the belt, and they said if it was replaced last year, there would still be writing visible, as it takes 40,000-50,000 miles to wear the writing off a belt, even an aftermarket one. So, now I am wondering, Did they really replace my timing belt last year, or did they rip me off? - **Jim**
RAY: I've heard of "seeing the writing on the wall," but seeing the writing on the timing belt is not as well-known a phrase - for good reason, Jim. It's not a reliable indicator.
TOM: We've seen belts with different amounts of writing on them. The factory belts often have white marks that line up with the timing marks on the cylinder heads and cam sprockets. But not all aftermarket belts do. Some have just the part number written on the belt, and that's it.
RAY: So, it's possible that the first mechanic used an aftermarket timing belt that had very little writing on it. And it may have worn off after just a year.



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM: We've never studied the wear patterns in the writing on timing belts and how they correspond with mileage in an '03 Subaru. But we'll put the next graduate-student intern at the garage right on it.
RAY: So, now there are three possibilities: One, the original guys didn't change your timing belt and ripped you off. Two, the original guys changed the timing belt, and the second guys made an honest mistake because they think all timing belts have long-lasting writing on them. Or three, the second guys ripped you off, which you hadn't considered yet.
TOM: Let's say the second guys tried to

pad their bill by selling you a timing belt, and you surprised them by saying: "Whadda ya mean? I just had it replaced!" Then maybe they did a song and dance with this whole writing thing, even though they knew better.
RAY: Here's one clue: When the second guys replaced your timing belt, did they charge you just for the part, or did they charge you for labor, too?
TOM: Here's why we ask. When you replace a head gasket, you have to remove and replace the timing belt anyway. So there's no additional labor required to change it. If they're honest guys, they would have told you that you needed a new timing belt and it would just cost you \$75 for the part.
RAY: On the other hand, if they tried to charge you an additional \$300 in labor - which is what it would cost if the timing belt were not ALREADY off - then that would suggest that they're ripoff artists, and it would lead us to question their credibility about everything.
TOM: And it would lead us to study their methods to see if we could learn anything useful! Good luck, Jim.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

SOCIAL SECURITY

People With Disabilities Can Get A Ticket To Work

BY JENNIFER HLADKY
Yankton Office Of Social Security

Millions of Americans receive disability benefits from Social Security and there could be good news for many of those who want to work. A free and voluntary program called Ticket to Work gives individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security disability benefits access to meaningful employment while maintaining control over benefit choices.
Ed Bairos, a farmer and mechanic, went back to the work he loved with the help of the Ticket program. He began receiving Social Security disability benefits after suffering from severe arthritis, complicated by a knee injury that would require 20 surgeries. He was concerned about losing the cash payments and health care he needed to survive and worried that employers might not want to hire him.
Then Bairos learned about the Ticket to Work program when he received a notice in the mail from Social Security. The notice was a "ticket" that Bairos could use with an employment network of his choosing. Employment networks are organizations that offer specialized services such as career counseling, job search assistance, vocational rehabilitation and training. Bairos decided

to use his ticket with an employment network and returned to work. He continued to receive health care and cash benefits because of work incentives, which are special considerations that make it easier for beneficiaries to explore whether going back to work is right for them.
Pleased with Bairos' industry knowledge and skills as a farm manager, his employer gave him a promotion and a raise. Now he is self-sufficient, working for another division within the company.
Bairos earns more money than he would have by relying solely on disability benefits. By using his Ticket, Bairos' medical reviews were put on hold and he is eligible to receive Medicare coverage for up to eight and a half years after discontinuing his disability payments.
"Returning to work has made me whole again, especially being able to work in the area that I love. My self-esteem was at its lowest when I wasn't working and on disability. Returning to work not only improved my self-worth but also my financial wealth. The Ticket to Work program and the ability to keep my Medicare was the reason I was



Jennifer HLADKY

able to return to work," he said.
If you receive Social Security or SSI benefits due to disability, are between 18 and 64 years old and want to work, getting started is easy.
Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work for more information on the Ticket to Work program and work incentives. You also may call (866) 968-7842

(TDD) (866) 833-2967 to learn how going back to work may affect your benefits.

WATSON'S FRIENDS HELP YOU AND SOCIAL SECURITY

In February 2011, Jeopardy! broadcast its first competition that pit man against machine. Watson, an artificial intelligence computer system developed by IBM, competed against the show's two most successful champions: Ken Jennings (longest winning streak) and Brad Rutter (biggest money winner).
Watson won, with the help of a four-terabyte memory that included 200 million pages of encyclopedias - including the full text of Wikipedia.
We at Social Security have known for some time that computers can help people. As a

result, we developed and now have some of the best online services in the world. Time and time again, Social Security's online services are at the top of customer satisfaction surveys.
So here's a Jeopardy! answer of our own: "You can conduct these online services at www.socialsecurity.gov." What is the question?
• What is "get an instant, personalized estimate of future benefits with the Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator"?
• What is "apply for Social Security retirement, spouse's, Medicare, or disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline"?
• What is "apply for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp"?
• What is "request a replacement Medicare card at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/links_medicare.htm"?
All of the above are acceptable answers.
Computers are capable of making our lives much easier. In fact, you might say that using our online services makes doing business with Social Security ... elementary, dear Watson.
See for yourself at www.socialsecurity.gov.

SCHOLASTICS

SDSU ANNOUNCES SUMMER GRADUATES

BROOKINGS — The following students were candidates for graduation after the Summer 2011 session at South Dakota State University.
The names of honor graduates are marked with an asterisk (*) to designate graduation with Cum Laude, two asterisks (**) to designate Magna Cum Laude, and three asterisks (***) to designate Summa Cum Laude.
Area Graduates are:
AVON — Amanda Jean DeJong, Bachelor of Science in Education & Human Sciences; Natalie Ann Schultz, Bachelor of Science in Education & Human Science
CORSICA — Derek David Bultje, Bachelor of Science in Education & Human Sciences
PLATTE — Melissa Marie Wesseling, Bachelor of Science in Education & Human Sciences; Suzanne Marie Swett, Bachelor of Science in Nursing ***
UTICA — Lindsay Ann Schramm, Master of Science in Graduate School
YANKTON — Allison Faye Johnson, Bachelor of Science In Nursing; Marvin Leroy Olnes, Bachelor of Science In Nursing; Trenton John Haffley, Bachelor of Science in Graduate School.
FORD FUSION RAFFLE TICKETS DRIVE PRIDE ORLANDO FUNDRAISING EFFORTS
BROOKINGS — Only one person will win the 2012 Jackrabbit blue, Ford Fusion on display outside Coughlin-Alumni Stadium at South Dakota State University football games.

But there are multiple ways to show support for the SDSU marching band program in its appearance at the Citrus Parade in Orlando, Fla., on New Year's Eve.
To offset the cost of the trip, each Pride member is selling 115 tickets at \$10 each for the Fusion, which includes a sunroof and spoiler. It's valued at \$26,500, however, local Ford dealer Einspahr Auto Plaza provided special pricing for the band.
Pride members will be by the car selling tickets before and during home football games through Oct. 22. The drawing will take place at halftime of the North Dakota State game Oct. 22.
The five-passenger sedan would make an economical option for Pride fans wanting to join the band in Orlando. The deadline is Sept. 9 to commit to the "land only" travel with the Pride package, which includes everything except transportation to and from Orlando.
The band will leave Wednesday, Dec. 28, and return Sunday, Jan. 1, with a number of tourist stops planned.
The trip has the support of retired Brig. Gen. Myrna Williamson, who joined the Pride in its 2008 Rose Parade trip. "These trips are so superb. I urge anyone thinking of going to the Citrus Parade to just do it."
However, the 11 a.m. Dec. 31 parade is just part of the attraction for the trip. The itinerary also includes:
• Dec. 29 — All day at Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure with the Pride to perform in the Universal STARS parade;

• Dec. 30 — All day at Disneyworld with travelers able to choose between Magic Kingdom, Epcot Center, Hollywood Studio and Animal Kingdom.
• Dec. 31 — After the parade, there is a tour of Kennedy Space Center. In the evening, there is a beach barbecue at Palms Cocoa Beach Resort and ringing in the New Year at the band's hotel.
Pride supporters stay at the same hotel as the band. The package also includes transportation in Orlando and all meals and sight-seeing adventures that the band takes.
Music Department Head David Reynolds said, "Traveling with the

Pride is one of the best ways for friends and alumni to be connected with our current batch of Jackrabbits. These students are outstanding ambassadors of the university, and they enjoy meeting and getting to know others who also have connections to the university."
The cost for the land-only package is \$1,225 for single occupancy, \$1,800 for double occupancy, \$2,250 for triple occupancy and \$2,900 for quad occupancy. Half the cost must be paid by Sept. 9 with the remainder due Oct. 29.
Some Pride supporters also are flying for that option has passed. Although it's not as big as the

Rose Parade, the Orlando Citrus Parade has close to 3,000 participants and more than 92 million viewers take in the ABC broad-

cast of the parade that can be seen in 89 percent of the homes in the United States.

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40th Anniversary
Steve and Lynette Hansen
Steve and Lynette (Cwach) Hansen were married September 4, 1971. They will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary September 4, 2011.
A card shower is requested in their honor by their children and grandchildren. Greetings may be sent to: 609 W. 10th St., Yankton, SD 57078.
Their children are: Michelle (Todd) Stark of Watertown, Sonja (Monte) Watembach of Sioux Falls, Katie (Chris) Nohr of Huron and Anne (Erick) Messler of Vermillion. They have eight grandchildren.

25 Years & Still Going Strong!
Steve & Delrae Wuebben
August 30, 1986
Happy Anniversary Mom & Dad!
Love, Tyler, Val, Hunter, Kaylee, Steph & Adam

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