

Life In Poetry

Poet Looks At Life Through Mockingbird

BY TED KOOSER
 U.S. Poet Laureate

A while back, we published a poem about a mockingbird, but just because one poet has written a poem about something, he or she doesn't hold rights to the subject in perpetuity. Here's another fine mockingbird poem from Carol V. Davis, who lives in Los Angeles.

MOCKINGBIRD II

How perfectly he has mastered
 the car alarm, jangling us from sleep.

Later his staccato scatters smaller birds
 that landed on the wire beside him.

Perhaps the key to success
 is imitation, not originality.

Once, when the cat slinked up
 the orange tree and snatched a hatchling,
 the mockingbird turned on us,
 marked us for revenge.

For two whole weeks he dive bombed
 whenever I ventured out the screen door

lured by his call: first tricked into thinking
 the soft coo was a mourning dove courting,

next drawn by the war cry of a far larger animal.

He swooped from one splintered eave, his mate from the other,
 aiming to peck out my eyes, to wrestle
 the baby from my arms, to do God knows what
 with that newborn.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2008 by Carol V. Davis, from her most recent book of poems, Between Storms, Truman State University Press, 2012. Reprinted by permission of Carol V. Davis and the publisher. Poem first appeared in Permafrost, Vol. 30, Summer 2008. Introduction copyright © 2012 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.

YCTC Plans Production For Riverboat Days

The Yankton Children's Theater Company will present "YCTC Sings" at the Riverside Park amphitheatre during Riverboat Days at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18.

For more information, contact Allison Spak at 605-660-6414 or yanktonchildrenstheatre@yahoo.com, or visit www.yanktonchildrenstheatre.org

Christian Academy Hosting Open House

Yankton's Missouri Valley Christian Academy will hold a Back-To-School Chapel and Open House at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 305 W. 25th St.

Chapel will be followed by an open house. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Call 665-4470 with any questions.

Ice Cream Social Planned At The Center

An ice cream social will be held at The Center, 900 Whiting Drive, Yankton, at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23.

Root beer floats and sundaes will be available. This event is open to the public.

For more information, contact Christy Hauer at 605-665-4685 or director@thecenteryankton.org.

Golf Advisory Board Meeting Slated

The City of Yankton Golf Advisory Board will meet at noon on Monday, Aug. 20, at the Fox Run Golf Course, 600 W. 27th St. This meeting is open to the public.

The Problem With Classic Cars

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 1966 Ford Mustang 2+2 (289-cubic-inch) V-8 engine with four-barrel carburetor. It has more than 170,000 miles on it. It starts right away, but when I shift the automatic transmission to Drive or Reverse, it dies out every time. I changed the fuel pump and the fuel filter, but the problem persists. I would very much appreciate your advice or any suggestions I might pursue. I have had this car for almost 46 years now, and I cannot bear to part with it. Please help. I am 72 years old, and on a limited income. Mahalo. -Onofre

TOM: The problem is not the age of your car, Onofre; it's the age of your mechanics! They're all too young now.

RAY: We have a bunch of guys working in our shop, and none of them have ever worked on a carburetor, and wouldn't know a carburetor problem if it crawled up their pants leg, bit them and left a huge rash on their tuchus.

TOM: To me, this sounds like a classic "choke pull-off" problem. When a cold carbureted engine starts, the choke is automatically engaged in order to reduce the amount of air going into the cylinders (that's why it's called a "choke"). This temporarily enriches the mixture (more gas, less air) and makes a cold engine easier to start.

RAY: But then, after a few seconds, once the engine is running, the choke is supposed to immediately "pull off" partway (it slowly pulls off the rest of the way as the engine heats up).



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM: If the choke doesn't partially pull off immediately after the engine starts, the fuel-air mixture will be too rich, and the car will be susceptible to flooding out and stalling. And when is that likely to happen? As soon as you put the car in Drive or Reverse and ask the engine to actually do some work!

RAY: I mean, there are other things that could cause the stalling. Weak spark for any other reason would do the same thing. But if you drove (or got pushed) into my shop, the first thing I'd do is check the operation of the choke pull-off, and if it's not working, replace it. You may need to buy a whole new carburetor in order to get a new choke pull-off, in which case I'd recommend an aftermarket carburetor with an electric choke.

TOM: So, you need to find somebody who

knows what to do when he sees a carburetor. I have a few ideas for you. One is to ask other classic-car owners you know for the name of a mechanic they like. Or, you can call around to your area shops and ask if they have anyone there who knows carburetors. Most likely, you'll get a frightened silence on the other end of the line, the handset will drop and then you'll start hearing crickets. But you may get lucky and find a place that still employs an old-timer.

RAY: Or, you may need to get more proactive than that. You may need to start visiting local old-age homes. Walk around and shake everybody's hand and say "hello." And when you meet the guy with the permanent grease stains under his fingernails that he still can't get out after 20 years of retirement, tell him it's his lucky day — you're taking him on a special outing! Mahalo, Onofre.

Keep your car on the road and out of the repair shop by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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 e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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BBB Alert: Beware Of Bogus Timeshare Offers

OMAHA, Neb. — BBB is warning consumers about the risks of getting involved with a timeshare escrow company called Green Leaf Escrow Services.

This business first came to the attention of the BBB in May 2012. Since then, BBB has received 324 inquiries about this company and two complaints. The company's website, www.greeleafescrow-services.com, states that it is located at 5509 Bendt Drive in Rapid City. BBB has confirmed that the business is not at this address which is a strip mall with only one occupant, an insurance agent, and its website is not legitimate.

One complainant from California reported that she initially received a phone call from a company called First Option Property Management that claimed to be a timeshare reseller and referred her to Green Leaf Escrow Services. First Option's website, which is also not legitimate, lists its address in Albuquerque, New Mexico. However, the Albuquerque BBB has confirmed that this business is not physically located at its stated address either. First Option told the timeshare owner that there would be no money upfront and agreed to sell all three of her properties in Mexico, and after each sale she would pay 5% of the purchase price as commission.

After signing the contract, the consumer was contacted by an "agent" who said he was with Green Leaf Escrow Services. She was told that a transfer fee was required by Mexican law and the buyer would reimburse her. The seller wired \$6,700 to Mexico.

Shortly after this transaction, she was notified that a second fee of \$13,000 for the three properties was required for the Mexican sales tax "to close the deal." The consumer reported, "None of these expenses were mentioned in the contract or in the conversation I had with the sales or escrow agents. When I questioned these policies, I was told that I could submit a refund request on their 'Refund Policy Form' which was supposedly sent to me at the beginning of the sale. Now, no one is available by phone or email to talk to me."

Another consumer from Massachusetts was contacted by First Option Property Management, and arrangements were made for the purchase of this person's timeshare also located in Mexico. She was referred to Green Leaf Escrow Services and told that she needed to pay the transaction fees for the sale. On two occasions the consumer wired money to a bank in Mexico totaling \$6,000. The trans-

action's closing was scheduled for July 13, but it did not happen.

BBB President and CEO Jim Hegarty urges consumers "to never wire money to companies or individuals they don't know personally. The act of requesting a wire transfer as the method of payment is a tell-tale sign of a scam. In addition, if you are contacted by phone regarding your timeshare, get all information in writing. Don't agree to anything until you have had the chance to thoroughly check the company out with the BBB at bbb.org or call us toll-free at 800-649-6814."

If you want to resell your timeshare and are approached by a company offering to help, consider these precautions:

- Don't agree to anything over the phone.
- Don't pay any money until you have actually read and understand the company's contract. You can choose a company that charges a fee after the timeshare is sold.

• If there is a discrepancy in what the contract says and what the salesperson tells you, believe the contract — not the salesperson.

• Regardless of what the salesperson tells you, do not assume there is a buyer available for your particular property. These companies only advertise properties' availability.

• Check with other property owners in your development or with real estate agents serving the area where your property is located to determine if any sales have actually occurred through this method.

• Find out where the company is located and where it does business. Verify with the state licensing board that the company is licensed to sell real estate where your timeshare is located.

• Check with the BBB, state Attorney General and other local consumer protection agencies in the state where the company is located to find out the company's customer experience record.

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Cook - Schramm

Terry & Julie Cook of Sioux Falls, SD and Harold & Angie Schramm of

Utica, SD would like to announce the engagement of their children Tara Cook and Scott Schramm.

Tara graduated from Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls in 2002 and then graduated from South Dakota State University in 2006, and then again in 2008. She currently is working in retail.

Scott is a graduate from Yankton High School in 2003 and then graduated from South Dakota State University in 2007. Scott is now a software engineer.

They are planning a September 2012 wedding.

50th Anniversary



Mr. & Mrs. Joe Logue

Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Dorothy Logue will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with an Open

House on Saturday, August 25th, 2012. The Open House will be from 2 - 4pm at the Broom Tree Lodge, 29827 446th Street, Irene, South Dakota.

The couple requests no gifts, and your presence is all that is needed.

The couple were married at St. Dionysius Church in Tyler, MN.

They have 8 children, 29 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.



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DROUGHT DEFENSE STRATEGIES

SOYBEAN DAY

Tuesday, August 21 | 10:00 – 11:00 am

From lab to the farm – applying ag research to your operation.

- ★ **Buyung Hadi** - SDSU Extension Urban Entomology
- ★ **Mike Moechnig** - SDSU Extension Weed Specialist
- ★ **Bob Thaler** - SDSU Extension Swine Specialist
- ★ **Gregg Carlson** - SDSU Professor of Plant Science

CORN DAY

Wednesday, August 22 | 10:45 – 11:45 am

Marketing, management and policy considerations for corn crops.

- ★ **Frayne Olson** - NDSU Extension Grain Marketing Specialist
- ★ **Darrell Mark** - SDSU Economics Adjunct Professor
- ★ **Matthew Diersen** - SDSU Extension Risk Management Specialist
- ★ **Tim Petry** - NDSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

BEEF DAY

Thursday, August 23 | 10:00 - 11:00 am

Managing your enterprise in a disrupted cattle cycle.

- ★ **Darrell Mark** - SDSU Economics Adjunct Professor
- ★ **Mark Grussing** - VP Branch Manager, First Dakota National Bank
- ★ **Matthew Diersen** - SDSU Extension Risk Management Specialist
- ★ **Warren Rusche** - SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist

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