

American Life In Poetry

When Words Capture An Object's Essence

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

To capture an object in words is a difficult chore, but when it's done exceptionally well, as in this poem by A. E. Stallings, I'd rather read the description than see the object itself. A. E. Stallings is an American poet living in Greece.

THE PULL TOY

You squeezed its leash in your fist,
It followed where you led:
Tick, tock, tick, tock,
Nodding its wooden head.
Wagging a tail on a spring,
Its wheels gearing lackety-clack,
Dogging your heels the length of the house,
Though you seldom glanced back.
It didn't mind being dragged
When it toppled on its side
Scraping its coat of primary colors:
Love has no pride.
But now that you run and climb
And leap, it has no hope
Of keeping up, so it sits, hunched
At the end of its short rope
And dreams of a rummage sale
Where it's snapped up for a song,
And of somebody—somebody just like you—
Stringing it along.

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 © 2012 by A. E. Stallings, whose most recent book of poems is Olives, Northwestern University Press, 2012. Poem reprinted from "Five Points," Vol. 14, no. 3, by permission of A. E. Stallings and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2013 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.

Pvt. Shannon Geocaching Trail Is Popular Destination

A number of people are having fun discovering northeast Nebraska along the Pvt.Shannon Trail. The trail, sponsored by the Shannon Trail Promoters Group, goes through the 16 towns, villages, and tribal areas of the member communities.

Grab your handheld GPS or smartphone and you can be on your way to a country caching adventure in no time at all. Along the route, there are many additional local features of interest that can be enjoyed including excellent eateries, lodging, fueling stops, individual Pvt. Shannon displays, National Parks historical signage, museums, state parks, local parks, local events, abundant wildlife, fishing, hunting, and many very friendly people.

You can start a Pvt. Shannon Country adventure with geocaching fun on the Pvt. Shannon Trail. This is an opportunity for people of all ages to get outdoors and enjoy the beautiful hills and valleys of this trail as described in the Historic Pvt. George Shannon Trail brochure that is available at many locations throughout the area. Shannon Trail Caching is care free fun since there is no need to invest in days of planning or in loads of equipment for a caching adventure. Most of the trail caches are available with only a very short walk from your "caching-mobile" and are hidden under a variety of difficulties and terrains. You can plan a visit to the Pvt. Shannon Geocaching Trail with a quick visit to the internet (www.geocaching.com).

For those not familiar with Shannon Country, Pvt. George Shannon was the youngest member of the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery. On Aug. 26, 1804, Shannon and interpreter Drouillard were sent to retrieve strayed horses. Shannon became disoriented in these rolling plains and wan-

dered northeast Nebraska for 16 days before being rescued by the other Corps members. During those 16 days, Shannon traveled the unmarked, beautiful country that has been covered by the Pvt. George Shannon Geocaching Trail. The group has honored Shannon by referring to the country he traversed as "Shannon Country" and hopes to offer you pleasant experiences in touring northeast Nebraska.

The Pvt. Shannon Geocaching Trail extends across a 180-mile loop starting at Verdigre and traveling east to St. James before reversing directions to the west and returning through additional Highway 12 member communities. About 118 caches lie directly along the trail route with an additional 135 pre-established caches located just a short distance off the route. This makes available more than 250 caches for the caching enthusiast. Since the Pvt. Shannon Geocaching Trail was released on May 22, many newcomers have visited our area for their own Geocaching adventure. To date, there have been nearly 1000 individual logs on these new locations by cachers from the plains. We have had visitors from multiple states including Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

So, what to do for fun? Get out and enjoy the Pvt. Shannon Geocaching Trail and the 16 member communities of Shannon Country. You can go caching at any time of the year in almost any weather and on any day of the week. In addition, there are two contests described in the Pvt. Shannon brochure (or on www.shannontrail.com) set up for you to win rewards for completing the trail and/or visiting all of the National Park Service signs located at the supporting communities.

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

Hi, guys! My name is Raychel. I'm a full-time student and part-time valet parker. I'm about to turn 21, and I am enthralled with the idea of a 1987 Porsche 944S as my graduation present. My dad had this car when I was little (he had gotten it as a present after having completed his Ph.D.), and I have such fond memories of just my dad and me driving around in his Porsche. Unfortunately, my dad hit a bobcat circa 1996-ish, and the Porsche was replaced by a Honda Prelude before my 5th birthday. As fate would have it, my uncle owns a 1987 Porsche 944S (five-speed manual) and is looking to sell it. While I trust my uncle, I was wondering what "problem areas" specific to this car, or any older Porsche, I should look out for. Also, the Porsche in question has spent most of its life in cold climates (New Hampshire, North Carolina and now Minnesota). Does this mean a whole other range of issues to look out for (my dad mentioned some concerns about salt)? My dream car is so close that I can taste it—I just need to make sure that it's in good shape. — Raychel

RAY: Specific problem areas for this car? Well, Porsche owners report a lot of wallet problems, Raychel. Is it too late to change your major to finance?

TOM: This is not a cheap car to maintain and repair. And since the one you want has been on the road (at least theoretically) for more than a quarter of a century, it WILL need repairs.

RAY: Maintenance, too. The timing belt needs to be changed every 30,000 miles on this car, for instance. That's not cheap.

TOM: But if you're in love with it, and you have realistic expectations for it (e.g., you buy a bus pass for backup



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

transportation), then I'm all for people buying their dream cars. I mean, what fun is life if you spend it all driving a Camry, right?

RAY: But you do need to have it checked out thoroughly before buying it, even though (or especially because) you're buying it from your uncle. I've always taught my kids never to trust their uncle.

TOM: Me, too. So go to the "Mechanics Files" on the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com. Use your uncle's ZIP code to find some highly rated, trusted mechanics near him.

RAY: Then call a few of them and see if any of them know German cars, and if they're up for doing a thorough physical on an old 944S.

TOM: Once you find a mechanic who's willing to check out the entire car, front to back, have your uncle take it over there and leave it for the day.

RAY: The mechanic should first check for a "deal-breaker." That might be rust that threatens your safety or the car's structural integrity (your dad is right that salt and corrosion could be a problem). A deal-breaker also might be a major engine or transmission problem, or anything else that would cost thousands of dollars to repair.

South Dakota 4-H Provides \$2,900 In College Scholarships

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Development, in cooperation with the South Dakota 4-H Foundation and the SDSU Foundation, awarded \$2,900 in college scholarships to eight South Dakota students for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Twenty-eight 4-H members from across the state applied for the eight scholarships. In order to qualify, youth had to have at least five years of active membership in South Dakota 4-H and be either a high school senior or enrolled in post-secondary education. A committee of SDSU Extension professionals selected the scholarship recipients based on a four-part application which included: a cover letter, résumé, letter of recommendation and transcript. The committee reviewed all qualifying applications and scored each applicant based on 40 percent scholastic achievement; 10 percent character; 40 percent 4-H project involvement including Citizenship/Community Service and Leadership; and 10 percent financial need.

The 2013-2014 South Dakota 4-H Scholarship recipients include:

- Andrea Marie Paulson from Clark County who received a \$200 scholarship sponsored by the SDSU Collegiate 4-H Scholarship Fund;

- Samantha Quinn Sleep from Lawrence County received the \$300 Frank and Shirley Heitland Memorial Scholarship;

- Robert John Foiles from Brookings County received the \$500 Robert Healy Memorial Scholarship Fund;

- Trevor Alan Larson from Tripp County received the \$300 John F. Beryl Younger Scholarship;

- Carson Ray Covey from Tripp County received the \$500 Sokota 4-H Endowment Scholarship Fund;

- Lane Steven Peterson from Hyde County received the \$500 Sokota 4-H Endowment Scholarship;

- Morgan Haley Meyer from Davison County received the \$300 Folkerts Family 4-H Scholarship;

- and Rebecca Ann Knight from Davison County received the 300 Folkerts Family 4-H Scholarship.

To apply for a South Dakota 4-H Scholarship in 2014, check iGrow after Jan. 1, for the 2014 South Dakota State 4-H Scholarship Policy document with eligibility, application and deadline requirements.

To learn how you can sponsor a 4-H scholarship, contact Audrey Rider, SDSU Extension 4-H Events Field Specialist at Audrey.Rider@sdsstate.edu.

Karl's TV Holding Donation Drive For Animal Shelter

Karl's TV will be accepting donations for the City Animal Shelter starting Friday, Aug. 2, through Friday, Aug. 9.

Items needed are pet foods, health supplies, shampoo & cleaning supplies.

According to Animal Control Officer Lisa Brasel, canned dog food, as well as dry cat and dog food, are especially appreciated.

People who donate can register for prizes to be given away at Karl's TV.

Contact Lisa Brasel at (605) 668-5210, or Karl's TV at (605) 665-2604 for more information.

BIRTHDAYS

VICTOR SCHAEFFER

Victor Schaeffer of Yankton will celebrate his 80th birthday on Aug. 11, 2013. The family requests a card shower and they may be sent to 2407 Walnut, Yankton, S.D. 57078.



Schaeffer

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AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Tuesday, August 6

7:40 am Yankton Library
(Kathy Jacobs)

8:20 am Old Iron Assn.
(Rodger Harts)

Wednesday, August 7

7:40 am Boys & Girls Club
(Kelsie Thoreson)

8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods
(Chef Staci)

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Public Notice

The Yankton Transit intends to apply for funds under Section 5311 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act for continued operation of a public transportation project in Yankton County.

This notice offers the opportunity for a public hearing, submittal of service proposals or comments regarding the project. Interested public or private transit or para-transit providers are invited to comment on this proposal or submit proposals to provide the service. Requests for a public hearing, comments or requests for a copy of the People's Transit proposal should be directed to Ron Baumgart, Executive Director, 901 East 7th Street, Yankton South Dakota 605-665-4610 by September 1, 2013