

American Life in Poetry

# A Poetic Look At The Labor Day Holiday

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

Here's a poem about a Labor Day that's really at rest, by Joseph Millar, from North Carolina.

### LABOR DAY

Even the bosses are sleeping late in the dusty light of September. The parking lot's empty and no one cares. No one unloads a ladder, steps on the gas or starts up the big machines in the shop, sanding and grinding, cutting and binding. No one lays a flat bead of flux over a metal seam or lowers the steel forks from a tailgate. Shadows gather inside the sleeve of the empty thermos beside the sink, the bells go still by the channel buoy, the wind lies down in the west, the tuna boats rest on their tie-up lines turning a little, this way and that.

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## Attorney General: Possible Scam Targets SD Citizens

PIERRE — Chief Justice David Gilbertson and Attorney General Marty Jackley are warning South Dakotans of a scam targeting South Dakota citizens. The scam involves callers identifying themselves as court employees seeking to collect payment in order for an individual to avoid immediate legal action. The caller will ask for personal identifying information and credit card information. They use the threat of court action in order to convince trusting individuals to provide this information to avoid legal consequences.

It is important for citizens to remember that the Court does not use phone solicitations to seek private information from the public. If you have been a victim of this scam or need any additional information, contact South Dakota Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-300-1986 or consumerhelp@state.sd.us. You can also contact your local court to verify the existence of a legal action or outstanding court debt.

# Saving Lives More Important Than Saving Pennies

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**Dear Tom and Ray:**  
I don't mind being called a sorry skinflint as long as I can justify my penny-pinching proclivities. I happen to believe that there are only so many "blinks" in a blinker. Therefore, I turn mine on only when absolutely necessary to signal another driver. For example, if I'm in a turn-only lane, I don't waste any blinks. Nor do I sit at a light with my blinker clicking and clacking, driving me nuts with the thought of all that wasted energy and technology until the light turns green. Am I right in my hypothesis, or do I need professional help?

**-Randy**  
**TOM:** I would lean toward the latter, Randy.

**RAY:** I mean, of course you're right that all mechanical parts eventually wear out. But you have to consider the risk/reward equation for what you're doing.

**TOM:** On the reward side, you might save a few bucks on light bulbs over the life of the car. You might.

**RAY:** And while the flasher unit generally lasts the life of the vehicle, sometimes the directional switch on the steering-wheel stalk will fail before the car does. If your behavior makes it last the life of the car, then you can save a few bucks there, too.

**TOM:** But here's something to keep in mind: You might not save any money. Let's say the typical directional bulb lasts 50,000



### CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

miles (that's a guess), and somehow you make yours last 60,000 miles, and the car lasts 150,000 miles. You may save 20 bucks because you only had to change the bulbs twice.

**RAY:** But if the car happens to last 190,000 miles, you'll still replace the bulb three times in the life of the car. So you save nothing.

**TOM:** And the risk you're assuming is way out of proportion to the possible reward. If failing to signal a turn causes some distracted driver to rear-end you, or some oncoming driver to not realize you're making a left turn (left-turn-only lanes aren't marked for people coming from the opposite direction), you could be out hundreds or thousands of dollars. Not to mention a couple of vertebrae.

**RAY:** Plus the alimony from having this

be the last straw for your long-suffering spouse.

**TOM:** More importantly, the lives of automotive light bulbs are shortened much more by going over bumps and rattling the filaments than they are by blinking.

**RAY:** So if you're really concerned about minimizing costs, don't drive, Randy. We know for a fact that you'll save money if your car spends its life sitting in your driveway.

**TOM:** Or you can just relax a bit. That won't be easy, I'm sure, because you say that just thinking about wasting blinks makes you crazy. But try. We're all for being gentle and non-wasteful with mechanical objects, and we admire you for that instinct. But try to keep it just this side of the looney bin, Randy.

Which is cheaper, buying or leasing? Should you keep a car forever or dump it after three years, before trouble starts? Find out in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, 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 email them by visiting the Car Talk website at [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).

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## Teacher Of The Year



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Yankton Education Association members nominate members for Teacher of the Year. Possible considerations include: the teacher's methods for meeting student needs, desire for professional growth, community involvement, dedication to the teaching profession, and rapport with students, parents and staff. Yankton teachers then vote for the nominee they feel deserves the honor. Many Yankton businesses donate to the prize basket for the winner. ReNaee Jackson, YMS music teacher, won the award in May, at the school district's recognition event. Jackson was unable to attend the May ceremony, but she was recognized during the Riverboat Days parade.

## AAA: South Dakotans Ready For Labor Day Travel

SIoux FALLS — AAA projects 73,500 South Dakotans will travel more than 50 miles from home over the upcoming Labor Day holiday, a 6.4 percent increase over last year. Eighty-nine percent of them will be getting there by private motor vehicle, four percent by air and seven percent by other means, including cruise ship, rail, multi-modal and bus.

Nationwide, 34.1 million Americans will travel over the holiday, AAA predicts, a 4.2 percent increase from the 32.7 million people who traveled last year. The anticipated increase in holiday travel is predominantly due to increased consumer spending and the recovering housing market. The Labor Day holiday travel period is defined as Thursday, August 29 through Monday, September 2.

"For many of us, our home is our biggest asset," said AAA South Dakota spokeswoman Marilyn Buskohl. "As home prices improve, more families are feeling more comfortable about traveling."

Labor Day holiday travel volume across the country is expected to remain above the 13-year average of 38.9 million for this holiday.

The largest share of holiday travelers (46 percent) will depart on Friday, Aug. 30.

Monday, Sept. 2, is the most popular date of return with 43 percent planning to return that day.

The average traveler is expected to travel a round-trip distance of 594 miles and spend \$804.

Nationally approximately 85 percent of travelers plan to drive to their destination, an increase of 4.3 percent from the number who drove last year.

Gasoline prices are not likely to play a major role in determining whether we'll travel this Labor Day. As of today (Aug. 20, 2013) the national price average for regular is \$3.537, down 4.8 percent (18 cents per gallon) compared to the same time year. The average price for gas on Labor Day 2012 was \$3.83, the most expensive average ever for the holiday.

AAA forecasts gas prices will remain less expensive than last year based on current trends through the middle of August, but there still remains the potential for late-summer hurricanes and refinery problems that could send prices higher.

## Heat

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climatologist Dennis Todey told the Press & Dakotan in a phone interview.

"We typically don't keep 'weekly' kind of records. Typically, we keep daily records or a monthly record. But this looks to be the hottest week as a whole at the end of August," he said.

"We are stuck with this (weather) through the week and maybe into early next week before we see a transition to cooler temperatures and a little more fall-like weather."

The current weather seems even more shocking after a cool, wet spring and summer that included May 1 snow, Todey said. A large ridge of high pressure remained over the western United States throughout much of this year, allowing a Canadian jet stream to remain in place with cooler temperatures and more moisture. Even August has maintained below-average readings around the state.

But the Yankton region has shifted into a dramatically different gear in recent days. A heat advisory was issued starting last week, and the heat index has reached 105 degrees. Nighttime temperatures have remained in the 70s and even 80s.

The heat advisory remains in effect until 7 p.m. today (Tuesday), but the heat index looks to remain in the 90s and around 100 degrees through at least the start of

Labor Day weekend. So what's causing this furnace blast? Blame it on the humidity, Todey said.

"That's been the real kick to this whole thing. Our high temperatures have not gone as incredibly high like last year, but the high dew points have not been dropping off at night," he said.

"When we have a lot of moisture in the air, it doesn't let the air temperatures cool down. When you have a dew-point of 75 degrees, it's very difficult for the temperature to drop much below 75 degrees. The moisture in the air isn't allowing the cooling off at night."

In recognition of weather concerns, both the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) and Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) have stressed their guidelines regarding healthy and safety for coaches, athletes and officials.

The concerns are particularly heightened with the football practices under way and this weekend's opening games. Both states' officials are reminding referees of the options of heat time-outs, extended breaks in the action or even rescheduling of games.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand sent an email Monday to all SDHSAA athletic directors and head football coaches. The email addressed both heat/humidity and lightning concerns.

"The ability to postpone or reschedule contests resides with administration at local school districts," Krogstrand said in the email.

"Should you and/or your competing school so desire, playing your contests at a later time or date when the weather conditions may be less adverse is a decision to be made by your individual school (this includes varsity football contests)."

Krogstrand also sent an email to officials, reminding them that they are not immune to heat illnesses and should remain hydrated at their games.

"Just this Saturday, an official died while working a contest in Florida, suspected to be partially related to heat illness and dehydration," he said.

"I would strongly recommend that every game this week use not only the heat time-out near the mid-point of each quarter, but also give consideration to the extended time-outs during changes of possession, etc. The safety of our student athletes needs to be the top priority this weekend, and additional time for 'cool-down' is only appropriate."

In the Husker State, the NSAA has also issued a message regarding heat-related time outs, according to NSAA Executive Director Rhonda Blanford-Green.

"We have received several calls regarding rescheduling fall event start times to earlier or later due to weather," she said. "These decisions are made on the local level. Communication with officials, coaches, and communities will be key."

NSAA Assistant Director

Nate Neuhaus sent an email to football referees regarding the use of an official's time-out for unusual heat or humidity which may create a health risk to the players. In addition, the NSAA website includes the association's heat acclimatization and hydration guidelines under the "Sports Medicine" section.

The hot, humid and dry weather has also drawn the attention of farmers. Both the South Dakota and Nebraska weekly crop reports note the weather conditions have placed a great deal of stress on crops.

"I was talking to people at DakotaFest (in Mitchell), and they think an inch or two of rain would make them feel very comfortable," Todey said.

The Yankton region has maintained a good amount of precipitation, although northeast Nebraska continues to show some drought conditions, Todey said. This summer's cooler temperatures reduced the crops' water use but also masked some of the dryness, he said.

"The planting season was late, and we had been somewhat fairly cool for the mid-point of the summer," he said. "The cool temperatures have been good for corn tasseling. Now, we're a little bit behind and need heat to push this along. The heat is good for corn, but it's a little more of a problem for soybeans, if they can escape without much stress."

Topsail and subsoil moisture has been fairly stable in

Nebraska. Emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grounds have been authorized in northeast Nebraska, including Cedar, Knox and Dixon counties.

The authorization provides emergency relief to livestock producers facing reduced pasture and grass resources due to drought.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for more information on CRP emergency haying and grazing. Additional information is also available online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/ne](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ne).

Looking ahead, Todey sees warm weather into next week, followed by a cool-down period. However, he sees no indication of an early frost or freeze.

"People mention the full moon that's coming Sept. 19, but that's no relation to a freeze," he said.

The one-month outlook for September from the Climate Prediction Center indicates equal chances for above-, near- and below-normal temperatures and precipitation.

But first, the Yankton region faces a blast furnace in the coming week, Todey said. That's particularly true for those without air conditioning.

"During this whole week, there will be levels of discomfort for some people in this environment," he said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](http://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

## 60th Anniversary Celebration



Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kaiser

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kaiser will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with an open house on Saturday, August 31, 2013, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Senior Center in Crofton, NE. The event will be hosted by their children and grandchildren. They were married on August 25, 1953. The couple requests no gifts.

## Labor Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, September 2, for the Labor Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

Out On The Town.....Noon, Wednesday, August 28  
Tuesday, September 3 newspaper.....5 p.m., Wednesday, August 28  
Wednesday, September 4 newspaper.....5 p.m., Thursday, August 29  
Thursday, September 5 newspaper.....5 p.m., Friday, August 30

There will be no newspaper on Monday, September 2, 2013

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