

Life In Poetry

# Poet Examines Life At Night For Children

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

Shadow play is among the few free entertainments left, and it must go on delighting children all around the globe. Derek N. Otsuji lives in Hawaii, and here's his reminiscence.

THEATER OF SHADOWS

Nights we could not sleep—  
summer insects singing in dry heat,  
short-circuiting the nerves—

Grandma would light a lamp,  
at the center of our narrow room,  
whose clean conspiracy of light

whispered to the tall blank walls,  
illuminating them suddenly  
like the canvas of a dream.

Between the lamp and wall  
her arthritic wrists grew pliant  
as she molded and cast

improbable animal shapes moving  
on the wordless screen:  
A blackbird, like a mynah, not a crow.

A dark horse's head that could but would not talk.  
An ashen rabbit (her elusive self)  
triggered in snow

that a quivering touch (like death's)  
sent scampering into the wings  
of that little theater of shadows

that eased us into dreams.

*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 ©2011 by Derek N. Otsuji. Reprinted from Descant, 2011, Vol. 50, by permission of Derek N. Otsuji and the publisher. 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.*

MILITARY

CODY THALER

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Cody L. Thaler graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Thaler is the son of Randy and Gin Thaler of 382nd Avenue, Lake Andes.

He is a 2008 graduate of Andes Central High School, Lake Andes.

EMILY TRAVERSIE

Army National Guard Pvt. Emily L. Traversie has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Traversie is the daughter of Tomi Walkingstick of West 43rd Street, Sioux Falls, and Chris Traversie Sr. of Wagner.

She is a 2008 graduate of Marty Indian School.

## Friday Night Opry Slated For Kaylor

KAYLOR — The Friday Night Opry will once again be held at the SoDak Stamm Heritage Hall on north Main Street in Kaylor at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7. The program of old time country and gospel music is open to the public at no charge.

Local musicians from a 60-mile radius of Kaylor will be performing. Organizers are saying that this program have a Christmas flavor.

If you would like to be on the program, you should contact organizer Dan Flyger at: 605-212-9011.

"We seek to have old fashioned, wholesome entertainment for the whole family," Flyger quotes.

Refreshments will be served for a freewill donation.

This will be the last opry for the winter season.

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# AC Problem May Be Vacuum Problem

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

My name is Luke, and I am a musician playing double bass with a band based out of Norman, Okla. Our record label has thoughtfully provided us with a Ford E350 van for touring. Recently, we have upgraded our trailer to a larger and heavier one. While this makes it much easier to transport our gear, we've noticed an issue occurring with our air conditioning. With the trailer attached, the AC will cut out whenever we accelerate or travel up an incline. What's worse, when the AC cuts out, the heat automatically kicks on, full blast. We've taken the van to mechanics a couple of times. They've been unable to reproduce the issue, and they say that they've never heard of this problem before. It appears to occur more frequently as the temperature rises and we need the AC more. I've considered that we are stressing the engine too much with the trailer and that the van is trying to siphon heat off the engine, but the temp gauge never budges. According to it, we are running in the normal range. This van has AC controls for both the front and back sections of the van, and this is occurring with both sections, usually at the same time. Since we are on the Texas country circuit, we naturally spend a lot of time in Texas. Having nine men in a van with no AC (or worse, the heat on full blast) in southern Texas leads to astounding levels of ... interesting odors. I am composing this letter in the van, sweating profusely. While we are trying to ride the climate controls to turn the air on and off as the AC kicks in and out, it isn't really working. Please, for the love of everything holy, help! —**Luke**

**RAY:** In addition to a perspiration problem, you have a vacuum problem, Luke.

**TOM:** There are little "blend doors" in the ducts of the ventilation system that open and



## CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

close to direct hot and cold air to where you want it. Those doors are held open or closed by small vacuum motors.

**RAY:** And for some reason, those motors aren't getting enough vacuum, especially when the engine is under a condition we call "WOT," or "wide-open throttle."

**TOM:** The vacuum is created by the engine, when the pistons go down and suck air into the cylinders. Vacuum is at its highest when the engine is idling and the throttle is closed (closing the throttle is like putting your hand over the end of your vacuum cleaner's hose) and at its lowest when the throttle is wide open. And when would the throttle be wide open? When you're trying to climb a hill in a van with nine large, sweaty dudes while towing enough equipment to outfit the Lawrence Welk orchestra.

**RAY:** So, either you have lousy vacuum to begin with and it's failing under high demand, or you have adequate vacuum and it's leaking out somewhere along the way to those blend door motors.

**TOM:** So, start with a simple pressure test to

see if your engine is producing enough vacuum right at the intake manifold. That's the source of your vacuum, and it's from there that vacuum gets distributed to the heater controls, the power-brake booster and anything else that requires it.

**RAY:** If the vacuum is sufficient there, then you'll need to trace the route of the vacuum from the engine to the blend doors. There could be a crack or a small hole in the manifold itself, or in one of the vacuum hoses.

**TOM:** Or you could have a bad vacuum reservoir (which stores vacuum for use during those moments of wide-open throttle so you don't get blasted with heat).

**RAY:** Some systems even use a check valve to maintain vacuum during wide-open throttle, and yours could be broken.

**TOM:** If there is a leak, the best way to find it is with a smoke test. There's a machine that pumps smoke into your vacuum system so you can watch and see exactly where it's escaping. That's where your leak is.

**RAY:** Of course, don't do the smoke test while driving, Luke, or you guys'll end up with heatstroke, odor-induced delirium AND smoke inhalation.

If it ain't broke, you won't have to fix it! Order 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 email them by visiting the Car Talk website at [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).

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## Analyst

From Page 1

Also, for the first time ever, Minnesota passed Illinois and Nebraska in corn production.

"You are living a dream," said Johnson. "You lived through a drought and are selling corn for \$7 a bushel."

The cattle industry has weaned itself from feeding corn for the time being but corn is still in high demand for ethanol plants and food products. He said 40 percent of the corn crop is headed to ethanol.

But by next spring, the lights will be flickering in the ethanol plants — and by summer, the lights will be turned off, closed for summer maintenance. Even now they are bleeding red ink.

"You people rolled more crap this fall than anyone ever," said Johnson. "And you will feed that to your cattle. You have learned to adjust to drought conditions."

So if there still is corn in the bin by February and March, he advises selling it. The market will resist \$8 corn and the time to move it will be the next five months. Speculators will be long and wrong, so Johnson advises farmers to listen to their local co-ops and elevators for corn futures. They will have a handle on the commodity and be right.

He also warned to read the fine print in any contract before it is signed. Know before giving a signature if the contract will need to be filled with a physical harvest crop or cash.

Fortunately for many farmers,

the drought was not as hard on soybeans as corn. Production was tight, though, and there weren't as many beans crushed. Many are looking to the South America soybean crop due to harvest in February. This will have a huge impact on the soybean planting season here in the U.S. next spring.

"As I advised you last year, kneel down beside your bed every night and ask God if it be His will, let there be a drought in South America," said Johnson. "Hope that worked for you last year."

By February, farmers will know if soybeans will maintain the \$13 level and then they should sell. Don't hoard soybeans over the summer months, he said.

"You all will look back and remember the drought of 2012," said Johnson. His granddad talked non-stop about 1936, his dad remembered 1956, his brother remembers 1988 and now this generation will have one to remember, also.

Johnson said the weather forecasters can do a five-day forecast at a fairly reliable rate but it's too

early to forecast weather for next spring or summer. He does agree the Midwest needs a major weather event soon or buyers won't be issuing any contracts for commodities. If any farmer has not become acquainted with the UNL Drought Monitor, they should check it out, he advised. He believes it is one of the best things to come out of the University of Nebraska as he laughed about Husker football.

"You will suffer from drought hangover and it will last a while," said Johnson. "It won't go away for two or three years and you will be talking about it for the next 52 years."

Nevertheless, farmers will respond to the 2012 drought. He thinks they will plant less corn even though more sod is being turned over than ever before. More soybeans will be planted this next growing season but farmers should make sure the germination of soybean seed has been tested. The

best ground will be planted in corn.

Johnson said expenses will generally stay the same as 2012 or increase slightly. Land, seed and crop insurance will be up but fertilizer costs will be down. Cash rent will be headed through the roof. He said he heard horror stories about land prices and rent increases from one end of South Dakota to the other as he traveled the state with the GrowingOn 2013 presentation.

There may be pockets of drought in 2013 and the flow of the jet stream needs to change so more moisture from the Gulf is brought up into the Plains. Johnson's best guess for marketing corn in 2013 is \$5.50 and soybeans at \$12.65.

For now, Johnson said to live off the crop insurance check, make normal crop decisions for 2013 and pray for rain on every farm in South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

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## It's the first of the month...

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## Holiday Fun Day...Shop n' Play!

Attention  
Parents...

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are having fun or stay  
and spend a fun-filled  
day with the family!

**Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> • 1-5:00 p.m.**

Yankton Summit Activities Center

### Here's How It Works:

- Parents ~ Pick up your ticket at any branch of your Services Center Federal Credit Union between 9am and 5pm or Saturday from 9-noon now through Dec. 8th.
- Present ticket on Sunday Dec. 9th at the Summit Activities Center.

**Pool, Slide & Gym Use is Free! 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

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8 yrs. & younger MUST BE SUPERVISED BY SOMEONE 14 YRS. & OLDER

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