

Life In Poetry

Poet Analyzes Winter Along The Gulf

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. Poet Laureate

Mark Sanders, who lives in Texas, is not only a good poet, but he's an old friend to the poetry of my home ground, working hard as teacher, editor, and publisher to bring Great Plains poetry to the attention of readers across the country. Here's an example of one of his poems.

THE CRANES, TEXAS JANUARY

I call my wife outdoors to have her listen,
to turn her ears upward, beyond the cloud-veiled
sky where the moon dances thin light,
to tell her, "Don't hear the cars on the freeway—
it's not the truck-rumble. It is and is not
the sirens." She stands there, on deck
a rocking boat, wanting to please the captain
who would have her hear the inaudible.
Her eyes, so blue the day sky is envious,
fix blackly on me, her mouth poised on question
like a stone. But, she hears, after all.

January on the Gulf,
warm wind washing over us,
we stand chilled in the winter of those voices.

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SHS Hosts Scholastic Book Fair Today

The public is welcome to attend the Sacred Heart School (SHS) Scholastic Book Fair.

The book fair will be held from 3:30-7:30 p.m. today (Tuesday) at the Sacred Heart Elementary School Gymnasium. Located at 1500 St. Benedict Drive, the elementary school is attached to St. Benedict's Church, just off Yankton's West City Limits Road.

Book Fair proceeds support the libraries at both Sacred Heart Elementary School and Sacred Heart Middle School, which is located at 6th and Capital, Yankton.

Valentine's Day Event Set For Vermillion

VERMILLION — The Main Street Center of Vermillion will hold its Valentine's Day of Fun on Thursday, Feb. 14. The event, which takes place at 320 W. Main, runs from 1-6 p.m.

The Valentine's Fun Day will include games and food. The games will include pitch, bridge, pinocle, dominoes and bunco. There will be a beverage break at 3 p.m.; and at 5 p.m., there will be soup, sandwiches and desserts, followed with drawings.

This event is open to the public.

For more information, call 605-624-8072 or email srcenter@vyn.midco.net.

Mead Open House Slated For Feb. 16

The Yankton County Historical Society and Dakota Territorial Museum will be hosting an Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Mead Building.

The event will give interested people a chance to tour the building before it is closed to the public for about a year during Phase 2. Everyone is asked to gather first at the South Training Center (the former Old Chapel) which is just southeast of the Mead Building.

The event will include a presentation at 1:30 p.m., at which time Steve Kunkel of Stonebrook Roofing, Inc., will be making a donation to the project. There will be light refreshments and displays that will give a look at the progress that has been made and a look to the future. Visitors can then walk over to Mead for a chance to look around.

If you have any questions, contact the Dakota Territorial Museum at 605-665-3898, or stop by at 610 Summit Street, across from Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.

'Woman Of Distinction' Tickets Available

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Women Community Leaders Committee will be recognizing two women at the fifth annual "Woman of Distinction" Luncheon on Monday, Feb. 18, starting at 11:30 a.m. in the main dining room at Mount Marty College. Doors open at 11 a.m.

There will be two awards, one for "Professional Leadership" and one award for "Community Leadership." The nominees in the Community Service Category include: Mary Fiedler, Dagmar Hossie, Joan Neubauer, Jane Pugh, Diana Roth, Leah Smith. In the Professional Category the nominees include: Joan Neubauer, Judi O'Connell, Jane Pugh and Sister Margo Tschetter.

The luncheon will also include featured speaker, Kristie VerMum, KTIV news anchor, producer and reporter.

Luncheon tickets are available at: www.yanktonsd.com/distinction-luncheon or at the Yankton Chamber & Visitors Center, Hy-Vee, Yankton Rexall Drug or you may contact any of the members of the Women Community Leaders Committee which include: Carla Addy, Kathie Gerstner, Kathy Greenaway, Jean Hunhoff, Katie Hunhoff, Emma Laird, Joleen Smith, Deb Specht, Nancy Sternhagen, Paula Tacke and Gert Thomas.

Spare Tires Starting To Be Phased Out

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

My wife just bought a 2013 Kia Soul, and there is no spare tire. The salesman told us that spare tires are becoming a thing of the past. There is a small unit for putting air in the tire in case of a flat. I was just wondering, why no spare tire? What would you suggest? —Bill

RAY: I would suggest not driving behind any nail trucks, Bill.

TOM: There are a number of reasons we're seeing more and more carmakers ditch the traditional spare tire.

RAY: The first has to do with fuel economy. A spare tire adds weight. A tire-and-wheel combination easily can add 50 pounds to the weight of a car. And since every pound you carry decreases your mileage, getting rid of that spare is an easy way to get more miles per gallon.

TOM: A second reason is space. With fuel-economy concerns leading to smaller cars, making room for an extra wheel and tire is increasingly inconvenient. Most people would rather have that room for groceries, dogs or that giant heirloom Henry XVI Nose Hair Tweezer they find at a garage sale.

RAY: And then on the other side of the equation is the decreasing need for a spare tire. Flat tires are a lot less common than they used to be. Oh, they still happen. But they used to be very common. With modern tires,



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

it's a very infrequent event for most people.

TOM: There also are other options now. There's the mini-spare (which will let you travel up to 50 miles or so), the auxiliary pump and can of Fix-A-Flat (which will work for things like nails and small punctures) and, if all else fails, there's the cellphone and credit card (which works for pretty much everything).

RAY: Those alternatives are not as failsafe as a real, full-size spare that's checked regularly and kept fully inflated. But carmakers believe that many people would rather have the space and the additional fuel economy these days and just use a temporary spare or call for

and forward.

Pope Benedict was already advanced in years when he was elected in 2005, said the Rev. Joe Forcelle, pastor at St. Leo Catholic Church in Tyndall and St. Vincent Catholic Church in Springfield.

"Most priests retire at age 70 or 75, and most bishops retire by age 75. The cardinals of the church retire at or before age 80," the priest said. "When Pope Benedict XVI was elected, he was 78, just two years shy of retiring as a cardinal."

Benedict was reportedly reluctant about assuming the papacy, Forcelle said.

"There's an 'urban legend' that, when the balloting was being read at his election, one of the cardinals nearby heard (Benedict) praying softly, 'Please, Lord, not me,'" the priest said. "When elected, he graciously accepted the desire of his brother cardinals and the Holy Spirit."

Benedict resigned because he felt he couldn't continue handling his responsibilities, Forcelle said.

"It is a difficult and courageous thing to admit that one is no longer able to discharge the duties and ministry of one's office," the priest said. "As I work daily with people aged 85 and beyond, I find myself often praying for the grace and wisdom to accept whatever limitations my own aging will bring."

The pope did what he thought was right for the church and himself by stepping down, Forcelle said.

"Pope Benedict XVI has given us all an example of humility," he said. "He is placing the needs of the church ahead of his own."

The Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery were care-

fully watching Monday's news, said their prioress, Sister Penny Bingham.

"Pope Benedict's resignation was the first thing I heard on the radio this morning, and I was very surprised," she said. "As I've thought about it more, I am grateful for his making this difficult choice after discerning his capabilities in relation to the needs of this important role in our church."

The monastery quickly picked up on the morning news, Sister Penny said.

"Even though we usually keep silence in our monastery until after morning prayer, (Monday's) news had many of us asking one another early on, 'Did you hear ...?'" she said. "So, yes, it has been a major topic of conversation and computer searches. It's certainly an historic moment, with the last papal resignation some 600-plus years ago."

Sister Penny said she awaits the selection process for the new pontiff.

"I believe the Holy Spirit is at work within the church, and I look forward to what the new movement of that Spirit will be as a new pope is elected," she said.

The nun holds several hopes for the new spiritual leader of the world's one billion Catholics.

"I pray that he will be a person of good health and stamina for this demanding role," Sister Penny said, "someone with a prayerful and listening heart who is able to hear the wide diversity of voices within our global church, someone who is able to welcome all — men and women — to the table and stay in dialogue with those of differing pieces of the truth, and a man of discernment and integrity who

will act out of the truth shared."

All people must stay actively involved in the church's work, she said. "Whoever will be elected pope, he will need our prayer and our wisdom."

Pope Benedict's resignation "came as a total surprise" but actually follows a recent trend, according to Sister Mary Jo Polak.

"When you look at the tenure of office holders in the church during the past 100 years, most religious communities have moved from 'elected for life' to elected terms or with resignation by a certain age," she said.

"Mother Jerome Schmitt was prioress (at the monastery) from 1932-1961. Now, the prioresses of Sacred Heart Monastery are elected for a single six-year term. Bishops are now asked to resign at age 75. Pope Benedict's decision recognizes the work of the Holy Spirit in the church, as well as an awareness of the needs of the church in this age."

Looking ahead, the Catholic Church faces many challenges, said Sister Jeanne Ranek.

"The church in our time is at a critical juncture, one of many in its long history," she said. "The question before us is this: How shall we be a Vatican II Church? Fifty years after that momentous ecumenical council, there is still much work to be done."

The new pope will experience — and must deal with — the reactions that accompany great change, Sister Jeanne said.

"As we look ahead to new papal leadership, my hope is for a person who will embody and implement the best of Vatican II and continue the thrust for spiritual renewal among Catholics and in relation to our sisters and brothers of other traditions," she said.

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