

American Life in Poetry

## Exploring An Afterlife Of Sweet Memories

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

Perhaps there's a kind of afterlife that is made up of our memories of a departed person, especially as these cling to that person's belongings. Bruce Snider, who lives and teaches in California, suggests that here.

### AFTERLIFE

I wake to leafless vines and muddy fields, patches of standing water. His pocketknife waits in my dresser drawer, still able to gut fish. I pick up his green shirt, put it on for the fourth day in a row. Outside, the rusty nail he hammered catches me, leaves its stain on everything. The temperature drops, the whole shore filling with him: his dented chew can, waders, the cattails kinked, bowing their distress. At the pier, I use his old pliers to ready the line: fatheads, darters, a blood worm jig. Today, the lake's one truth is hardness. When the trout bite, I pull the serviceable things glistening into air.

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## City

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brought to town, for the most part — to go ahead and in-cent occupancy on that property. The other thing it does is dovetails well into trying to get occupancies into our Tax Increment District No. 5 (i.e. the Menards property). The sooner we can get more real estate tax-generating entities on those sites, the quicker we can retire that tax increment district."

Matt Dennis of the R.H. Johnson Company, which is working to recruit businesses to the site, told the commission his organization works across the Midwest.

"What we have found is that, throughout our travels ... towns of the market size of Yankton are looking for opportunities unique to that market — not unique necessarily to the names we all see as we travel to Sioux Falls, Kansas City or St. Louis," he stated.

The result is a lot of competition for the limited resources of recognizable chain stores and restaurants.

"The use of incentives is the starting point for most city councils and economic development folks throughout these Midwest markets," Dennis said. "We hope in the next couple of months to have some announcements (for the Menards outlots), and this tax incentive will help get those deals done."

Mayor Nancy Wenande said she had spoken earlier in the day with Leo Kopetsky of Yankton's Ace Hardware stores. He received a sales tax rebate when a decision was

made to expand into the north location along Broadway Avenue.

"To some extent, he didn't think it was really fair to compare what he received as \$50,000 to what we're looking at here of over \$200,000 per lot that could be incented back," she said. "He thought we need to take a serious look at if this is the right way to recruit and if what we're recruiting to Yankton is in direct competition to a lot of our already-existing businesses."

Commissioner Charlie Gross said he saw the sense in incenting Menards to come to Yankton because of the large amount of sales tax the city was losing to area communities in the building material market.

"To do the same sort of trade off for restaurants when we have a number of restaurants in town doesn't make sense to me," he stated. "We don't have restaurant leakage, per se. We could track the amount of building materials that people in Yankton were going to Norfolk, Sioux City, Sioux Falls and Mitchell to buy. I just don't see this as a necessity."

The commission approved the sales tax rebate for the outlots in a 7-2 vote, with Gross and Commissioner Brad Woerner dissenting.

Also Monday, the commission:

- approved a water rate and water surcharge hike; and
- decided to create a task force of commission and community members to study the possibility of a noise ordinance.

*You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage*

# Help For Sensitive Ears

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

### Dear Tom and Ray:

This past year, I got some kind of fungus in my ears that deteriorated my eardrums to the point that I needed hearing aids. It is great being able to hear again, but with one drawback: I drive a '97 Ford F-150 extended-cab long-bed pickup, and when I open the door, the warning bell reverberates in my hearing aids and drives me crazy. And to top it off, the bell continues even with the door open and the key removed. I want to shoot the little guy under my dash who's ringing that bell! My regular car mechanic says he's afraid to try to disconnect it. What can I do to get some relief? I love the truck, and it has been perfect for me through the years. Help! — Gary

**TOM:** It's not easy, Gary. You should see if one of the guys from the local bomb squad moonlights. He can probably handle it.

**RAY:** We know it's not easy because we tried it once for a customer. It was a similar Ford truck, and I think the guy wanted to sneak back into his house after his late-night book-club meetings without his wife hearing him. So he asked us to disconnect the door chime.

**TOM:** We took the simplest approach, which is to remove the thing that makes the noise. We located it way up under the dashboard. And after a great deal of difficulty, one sprained elbow and two dislocated shoulders, we removed it.

**RAY:** Only once we removed it,



### CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

something else important didn't work ... like the headlights, or some other lights. It was a long time ago, so I don't remember. I just remember we had to trick the guy into picking up his car during daylight hours.

**TOM:** The problem is that that same chime is also used to warn you when, for instance, you leave your headlights on. And it turned out all that stuff was wired together.

**RAY:** So if you want to kill just the door chime, you've got to perform a more surgical operation.

**TOM:** The wiring module that controls this thing is in the steering column, so you have to start by removing the steering collar.

**RAY:** On the left side, you'll see a little plastic junction box with a bunch of colored wires attached to it. You want to find the black and purple wires, and carefully cut them.

**TOM:** Be careful. If you cut the red

wire by mistake, Harrison Ford may have to come in and rescue you.

**RAY:** The real reason to be careful is that it's much easier and cheaper to cut these wires than it is to put them back!

**TOM:** Also keep in mind that the chime is there for a reason: because lots of morons like us have locked their keys in the car, or left the headlights on.

**RAY:** So another idea would be to try dulling the chime first. If you find the chime itself up under the dash, you can remove it and then wrap it in some sound insulation and duct tape. That may mute the sound enough so it doesn't hurt your ears, while still leaving a slightly audible warning chime in place. That way, just as you slam the locked door with the keys still in the ignition, you can say to yourself, "What's that faint ding noise I hear?"

To buy or not to buy — options, that is. Are options worth what you pay for them, or are you better off just going with the basics? Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" to find out. 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.*

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## Arts Council Board To Gather In Pine Ridge

PIERRE — Members of the South Dakota Arts Council, the governing board of the Office of Arts, will gather July 26 at the Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for the Council's annual summer meeting.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m., MDT, at the Heritage Center, 100 Mission Drive, Pine Ridge Reservation. An agenda will be posted the week of the meeting at the SDAC offices, 711 E. Wells Ave., Pierre, SD. For more information, call the SDAC offices at 605-773-3301 or e-mail sdac@state.sd.us.

The Arts Council's summer meeting is its policy review meeting. The council will consider guideline changes to grant programs as well as update agency policies.

An office of the South Dakota Department of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council's mission is to provide grants and services to artists, arts organizations and schools across the state, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and South Dakota state government.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the South Dakota State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Farmers Union Campers Learn Financial Literacy, Cooperation

Many Americans have too much debt, aren't saving enough money every month and need to work on their financial literacy. That education should start early, and Yankton County Farmers Union's annual day camp taught young people about the importance of taking care of their money and about the impact cooperative businesses have had on our state's economy.

A total of 16 young people attended this year's camp themed, "Farmers Union is our name, Cooperation is our game." The kids participated in activities and games that taught them about cooperative business, rural communities, and agriculture in a fun and safe setting. They participated in hands-on team building activities, played a cooperative human board game to test their knowledge of finances.

"We hope the children who learn about saving money and cooperating with each other at an early age will be more successful adults," said State Education Director Bonnie Geyer. "Our youth need to learn about what cooperation in their own personal lives can do, along with the importance of cooperative business

and being a good steward of the money they earn."

Along with activities, games and singing, each child also decorated their own wooden bank as a craft to promote saving money. Each child also received a free T-shirt.

Participants at this year's Yankton County Farmers Union camp were Madlin Herbert, Lance Kotrous, Samantha Kotrous, Kalea Thon, Ella Smith, Brandon Cap, Megan Cap, Carly Cap, Tony McGhone, Carson Haak, Mason Ruzicka, all from Yankton; Keanna Lee from Gayville; Baylee Boese from Viborg; and Katelyn Sternhagen, ReAnna Kotalik, and Brock Katalik, all from Tabor.

Helping at this year's Yankton County Farmers Union Camp were Summer Staff Interns Hannah Lily and Nicole Seible.

For more information on South Dakota Farmers Union and how you and your children can get involved in the organization's youth activities, visit the education page at www.sdfu.org or call Bonnie Geyer, State Education Director at 605-352-6761 ext. 125.

### SCHOLASTICS

#### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL, Minn. — The following area students have been named to the 2013 spring semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, the university announced.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-

graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

- Dakota Dunes — Jaden Solsma, Col of Educ/Human Development;
- Vermillion — Patrick Haight, College of Liberal Arts;
- Yankton — McKenzie Fitzgerald, College of Biological Sciences.

### 50th Anniversary Celebration



#### Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Johnson

You are cordially invited to attend an open house on Sunday, August 4, 2013, from 2 - 4 p.m. in celebration of Bob and Anna Mac's 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple was married on January 26, 1963, in Washington, D.C.

The celebration will take place at Kelly Inn Best Western, east Highway 50, Yankton, SD, and will be honored by their sons: Daniel of Phoenix, AZ, and Dave (Lori) of Volin, SD.

The couple requests no gifts.



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