

American Life in Poetry

Summer Job

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

The following is just one of three fine poems John Drury, who lives and teaches in Ohio, has written about the summer jobs he had when young. Many of us have thought, with him, "So this is experience," though we might have added a question mark. His most recent book of poems is *Sea Level Rising*, published by Able Muse Press.

MOTOR LODGE

"So this is it, experience," I thought,
lugging tin buckets from the ice machines
to rooms of real adults with cigarettes,
mixed drinks in plastic cups, and proffered coins.

I reached out for their blessings, but the tips
were nothing next to rumped, unmade beds
at four in the afternoon, women in slips
and men in t-shirts while the TV played.

Down in the laundry room, I counted sheets,
stunned by the musk that vanished in the wash,
and balled up soggy towels that down the chutes
exploded in bins. Before the evening rush,

avid and timid for what I glimpsed at work,
I left, hanging my gold vest on a hook.

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MASABA Celebrates Two Years Injury-Free



SUBMITTED PHOTO

VERMILLION — MASABA employees reached a major milestone last week in regards to workplace safety. On July 9, the custom manufacturer of bulk material handling equipment successfully completed its second straight year without a loss time accident.

"We've always held employee safety as the highest priority at MASABA. We want every MASABA team member to go home at night, and I'm extremely proud of them for this accomplishment," MASABA President, Jerad Higman, commented.

SCHOLASTICS

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

OMAHA, Neb. — The following students from your area were named to Creighton University's Spring 2015 Dean's List. Full-time students who earn a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a 4.0 scale are eligible for the Dean's List.

- Luke Buffington of Gayville, a senior in the Heider College of Business

- Michael Kotrous of Niobrara, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences
- Ian Fallon of Randolph, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences
- Matthew Gubbels of Yankton, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences
- Amy Johnson of Yankton, a senior in the Heider College of Business

NRCS Calling For Proposals

LINCOLN, Neb. — State Conservationist Craig Derickson announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking proposals for focus areas to target Ogallala Aquifer Initiative funding. Applications for proposals are due by Aug. 5, 2015.

The main goals of the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative are to reduce aquifer water use, improve water quality and enhance the economic viability of croplands and rangelands in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Currently, the use of groundwater from the aquifer is unsustainable as withdrawals exceed the natural recharge of the aquifer. Intensive agricultural and industrial practices threaten the quality and quantity of the water source.

The Ogallala Aquifer Initiative funding is focused on geographic areas within the Ogallala Aquifer that support targeted, local efforts to conserve the quality and quantity of water in defined areas of the aquifer. NRCS is inviting conservation partner organizations to submit proposals for Ogallala Aquifer Initiative focus areas that meet this need.

Proposed focus areas should be located in the previously used target area for the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative (see map). Any proposal for a focus area that incorporates land outside this target area must include information describing the aquifer-related water quantity or quality concerns that occur in that area.

For more information on how to submit a proposal for an Ogallala Aquifer Initiative focus area, visit your local

USDA service center or the Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service website www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

Sometimes life can be overwhelming. If you need help coping... call us.

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Car Talk

She Wants To Cut Out The Dealer As Much As Possible

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:

I haven't owned a car for over 20 years; I don't need one. But my mom fell, broke her hip and had to be moved out of her home and into an independent living situation. Mom can no longer drive, and her old pickup is impossible for her to get in and out of, even as a passenger. And it's not a good choice for city driving anyway. So now I need a car to get my mom around. I have rented 14 different cars, checking for: Can Mom get in and out; do a wheelchair and third passenger fit; is it safe and reliable; and does it get good gas mileage? I went to several Toyota dealerships and ended up walking out feeling like I needed to be decontaminated, and thinking, "I am not going to give that guy one cent of my money." Any recommendations of cars that meet the above criteria? And do you have any good advice on buying a new car that does not involve having to talk with a dealer? Many thanks for the years of laughter and any advice you have to offer.

— Heather

Well, your mom's comfort is completely subjective, of course. But I would think a good bet for her would be cars that are in a category called "compact crossovers."

A crossover is a vehicle that's a cross between a car and an SUV. It's a car built on a car chassis, with an SUV body style. So crossovers drive like cars, get better mileage like cars and tend to be safer and more comfortable, like cars. But their seating position is higher off the ground than a car's, though lower than in a truck or SUV. When the seat level of the car is the same as your derriere, that means you don't have to climb up or fall down to get into the car. That's probably what Mom would find easiest. Crossovers also have wagonlike cargo compart-



Ray
MAGLIOZZI

Nissan Rogue, Honda HR-V, Subaru Forester or Buick Encore, just to name a few, those are worth a try. You also might visit the Special Needs Zone of our website, cartalk.com, which has a bunch of resources for people with car-related mobility issues.

In terms of how to buy one, it's hard to completely avoid a dealer when you're buying a new car. But at least do the negotiating on your own turf these days. There are a number of websites that will allow you to research a car, configure it the way you want and then ask several local dealerships for a price, all online. Sites like BestRide.com, cars.com and truecar.com offer some form of that service.

The trick in using those sites is to know pretty much exactly what you want before you start the process, and handle the negotiation by email so you aren't put under pressure. For instance, if you decided you want a blue Nissan Rogue SL with leather seats, you'll be able to send that request to several dealerships. And once they respond, you can tell them you prefer to correspond by email, and ask them for the "out-the-door price" of the exact car you want. Tell them you want to know the amount of the bank check you need to bring with you in order to drive off with the car.

Asking for the complete, final price,

ments — for stashing a wheelchair, for instance.

The so-called compact crossovers are just smaller, more economical crossovers. It sounds like economy and maneuverability are priorities for you. So if you haven't looked at vehicles like the Kia Soul, Nissan Rogue, Honda HR-V, Subaru Forester or Buick Encore, just to name a few, those are worth a try. You also might visit the Special Needs Zone of our website, cartalk.com, which has a bunch of resources for people with car-related mobility issues.

including taxes, dealer prep, registration and the little strip of paper that says "Sanitized for your convenience," has several advantages — not the least of which is that you won't be surprised by additional charges later on. And if you are, you say: "Oh, sorry, I already had the bank make out the check for the amount we agreed on. Do you want to sell me the car, or do you want me to go away?"

But it also allows you to compare apples to apples, so you can see which dealer is really offering you the best price. And then you can choose between the dealerships based on whatever variables are most important to you: price, distance from your house, reputation, the way they handled the negotiation or the reported quality of their waiting room coffee.

If you agree on a total, out-the-door price by email, you won't have to go through the song and dance in the showroom, with the salesman going to ask his manager if he can throw in the embroidered floor mats if you promise to buy the car "today." That pressurized drama is what many people object to when buying a car.

So take your time, figure out what you want, and do as much of it as you can in writing by email. Good luck to you and Mom, Heather.

Click and Click offer a strategy for everyone who's shopping for a car. Find yours in the pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Car Talk/Next Car, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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AND DOUG BERMAN

Benedictine Sister Receives Human Rights Award

On July 23, Yankton Church Women United hosted The Banquet along with several Sisters from Sacred Heart Monastery. Before the dinner bell rang for guests at 6 p.m. in the U.C.C church basement (218 W. Fifth St.), S. Eileen O'Connor was recognized for her contribution to the community by the YCWU receiving the 2015 Human Rights Award. Commenting on her experience S. Eileen clarified what the mission of the YCWU means to her "serve means the same as love". That is evident in S. Eileen's involvement in the Yankton Community, whether it's serving as a Big Friend, as a volunteer at The Banquet, or lending a hand in any other way. She has actively served as Sacred Heart Monastery's Vocation Assistant, for fourteen years working with all age



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Standing left to right is S. Eileen O'Connor and Rita Wentworth, members of the Yankton Church Women United.

groups: children, teenagers and adults. Eight churches in Yankton are members of the YCWU, and more are certainly welcome. Christ the King Episcopal Church, Peace Presbyterian Church, Sacred Heart Church, Sacred Heart

Monastery, St. Benedict Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, United Church of Christ and United Methodist

35th Anniversary Celebration



Mr. and Mrs. Wiepen

Mick and Tami Wiepen of St. Helena, NE celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on July 26, 2015. The couple was married on July 26, 1980 in St. Helena, NE.

Their children are Jenna and Tim Gobel, Fordyce, NE; Katie and Nathan Koch, Hartington, NE; Shawna Wiepen, Hay Springs, NE; and Carrie Wiepen, Lincoln, NE. Also celebrating with them are their two grandchildren, Wyatt Gobel and Emmitt Koch.

The family requests a card shower. Greetings may be sent to: 89771 560th Avenue St. Helena, NE 68774

Join us in celebrating Great-Grandpa's 80th birthday!



Open house for Richard Syring

2:00pm - 5:00pm Riverview Park Reformed Church
Sunday, August 2, 2015 1700 Burleigh Street, Yankton, SD

85th Birthday

Don Jorgensen will be celebrating his 85th birthday on July 31, 2015. His family requests a card shower.

Greetings can be sent to:
Don Jorgensen
PO Box 368
Viborg, SD 57070

Bedard - Hill

Becca Annette Bedard and Michael Jordan Hill are happy to announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Becca is the daughter of Ron and Loni Bedard of Rapid City, SD, and Michael is the son of Jim and Bernie Hill of Dante, SD. They officially became engaged on December 27, 2013, at the Falls in Sioux Falls. Becca and Michael will be married August 1, 2015 at the Historic Fort Randall Chapel located below the Fort Randall Dam near Pickstown, SD, with a reception and dance to follow in Dante, SD. They will be residing in Aberdeen, SD.

www.yankton.net

35th Anniversary Celebration

Mr. and Mrs. Willcuts

Steven and Brenda (Schurman) Willcuts of Yankton, SD, will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on August 2, 2015. The couple was married on August 2, 1980 in Yankton, SD. The couple has one daughter, Amberlee (Nathan) Mueller of Yankton, SD.

Their family requests a card shower. Greetings may be sent to: 2405 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078.



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